momokuri

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by kurose

2

kurihara with momotsuki b s gi ries

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momokuri

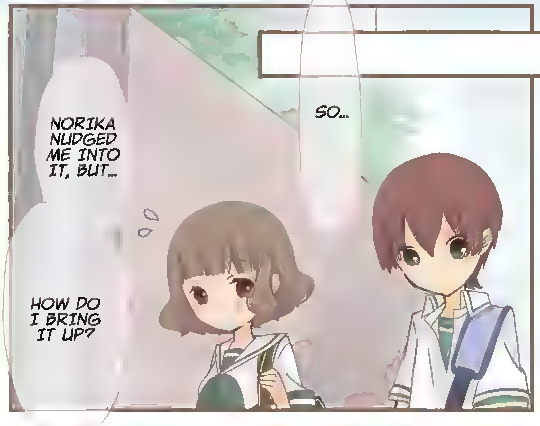
EP16: THUMP THUMP

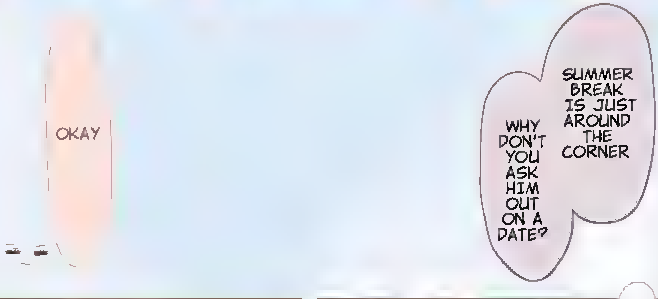
OH, JEEZ...
YEAH.
THIS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY...
CRAZY? YOU'RE ALREADY CRAZY.
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH THE GUY.
COULDN'T YOU JUST, LIKE, ASK HIM OUT ON A DATE TO THE BEACH OR A POOL OR WHEREVER?
JUST THE TWO OF YOU?
I JUST HAD TO SEE IT!
BUT, BUT
DON'T DRAG A YOUNGER STUDENT INTO YOUR INSANITY
MOMO-KUN IN HIS SWIM TRUNKS!
YA KNOW

UGH, ENOUGH WITH THAT LOVEY-DOVEY TALK
I-IT'S JUST THAT BEING ABLE TO STAND NEXT TO HIM ALONE MAKES ME SO HAPPY IT'S ALREADY MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME
BUT ALL YOU DO IS WALK PART OF THE WAY TO SCHOOL AND PART OF THE WAY HOME TOGETHER YOU DON'T ACTUALLY GO ON ANY DATES!
YOU KNOW, YOU SAY YOU GUYS ARE DATING..
AHH! SO MEAN!

NO WAY! A BOY AND A GIRL, GOING TO A PLACE WHERE PEOPLE SHOW SO MUCH SKIN?! THAT'S DIRTY!
ぴゃー eeee
you wanted to peep..
THAT'S YOUR LOGIC?

ACTUALLY, MOMO-KUN'S REALLY QUIET TODAY


NORIKA NUDGED ME INTO IT, BUT...
HOW DO I BRING IT UP?
SO...


OKAY
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM OUT ON A DATE?
SUMMER BREAK IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

I CAN'T LOOK HER IN THE EYES!
shock
?!
IT WAS ONLY ONE MEASLY DAY.
WHAT'S WITH ME?
THIS IS DRIVING ME CRAZY...
BUT I...
M-MOMO-KUN?!
ARE YOU, UM, MAD.. AT ME?
HUH...?
OH, YEAH.
...NOT...
SHE MEANS HOW SHE BAILED ON ME YESTERDAY.
I'M..
...NOT..
gloom
MAD?

uhh...
LOOK, YESTERDAY...
BY COINCIDENCE..
I SAW YOU AND SAKAKI GOING INTO A CAFE TOGETHER
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU TWO KNEW EACH OTHER
AND YOU TOLD ME YOU HAD SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF. SO...
I WAS LIKE, "WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?"
IS HE...
...JEALOU...
AND I JUST CAN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT IT.
WHA?!
why?!
...sss!
spurt
NOSE-BLEED!

YOUR GIRL POWER IS REALLY HIGH, HUH?
URGH... THANKS.
YOU ALWAYS HAVE SOMETHING HANDY IN TIMES LIKE THIS.
A-ANYWAY...
HAVE A TISSUE.
SWIP
??
DON'T GO TELLING A GUY...
?
...THAT HE'S GOT GIRL POWER
please.
MGYA!
I AM SO SORRY!

OH...
ALL THIS TIME...
...I'VE BEEN OBSESSING OVER HOW CUTE HE IS.
DON'T LOOK UP, KURI-HARA-SAN.
HUH?
PINCHING YOUR NOSE IS THE BEST WAY TO STOP THE BLEEDING.
you'll hurt your throat.
OKAY!
you know what you're talking about!
SO HE DIDN'T PINCH MY NOSE BECAUSE HE'S MAD!
whew!
BUT... YEAH...
MOMO-KUN'S...
HMM?

...A BOY.

OHH, IT'S SUCH A WASTE, SUCH A WASTE, BUT...
IF I DON'T STOP HIM, I'LL BE STUCK IN A CYCLE OF NOSE-BLEEDS FOR LIFE!
ACK!
D-DUH! RIGHT! SORRY!
I CAN DO IT MYSELF...
THAT HURTS!
UM..
MOMO-KUN..
M...

wait. I never ended up asking what her important something was...

HE EVEN SWOOPED IN TO NURSE ME! OH, MOMO-KUN'S SUCH A SWEET-HEART!
MY NOSE-BLEED DIDN'T CREEP HIM OUT.
EP17: CONNECTING WORDS
momo kun in swim trouunks!!
AH! BUT I WAS GOING TO ASK HIM TO THE BEACH! IT COMPLETELY SLIPPED MY MIND!
HMM?
KURIHARA-SAN, CAN YOU TALK RIGHT NOW?
IT'S MOMO-KUN!
TO-MORROW. I'LL ASK WHEN I SEE HIM TO-MORROW

A BARBE-CUE?!
YUU-HYANTH GON, THOO!
you're gonna choke
WHAT ABOUT YOU, SAKAKI?
EH, SORRY. I HAVE PRACTICE. I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE IT.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO FOR THE INGREDIENTS AND COOKING TOOLS AND STUFF?
here, banana au lait.
THEY LOAN OUT TOOLS AT THE SITE
I'M HAVING MY BIG BRO BRING THE INGREDI-ENTS, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO BRING ANYTHING
and we don't need to worry
YOU HAVE A BIG BROTHER, SAWA-GUCHI?
he's four years older than me
YEAH
HE JUST GOT HIS LICENSE
UMMMM, THAT DOESN'T SOUND SAFE!

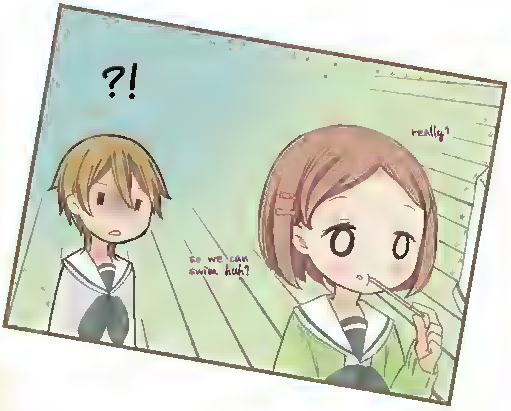
MOMO-KUN!
DOES THAT MEAN YOUR GIRLFRIEND'S COMING TOO?
HEY!
WELL, NUMBERS-WISE..
WE COULDN'T ALL FIT IN THE CAR.
SO I THINK WE'LL HAVE THE GROCERY SHOPPING TEAM SPLIT OFF, AND EVERYBODY ELSE TAKES THE TRAIN AND MEETS US THERE
OHH, OKAY
...TALKING TO MOMO-KUN ON THE PHONE!
IT'S MY FIRST TIME..
that's not a dream...
Y-
YES!
OF COURSE I'LL GO!!
YOU WILL BE AWESOME

I JUST TOLD RIHITO AND THE OTHERS I WOULD GO
I FIGURED THE SOONER I ASKED YOU, THE BETTER YOU KNOW, BEFORE YOU END UP BUSY.
I-
IT'S TOTALLY FINE!!
MOMO-KUN COMES BEFORE ALL ELSE!
OKAY, GREAT.
HEH HEH...
I DON'T THINK I'VE BEEN TO A BARBECUE SINCE PRIMARY SCHOOL.
MOMO-KUN'S VOICE..
ON THE PHONE, I CAN HEAR IT RIGHT UP NEXT TO MY EAR.
MMHM!
WHOA, IT'S REALLY BEEN THAT LONG!?

IT'S SO.. BOYISH
I CAN REALLY HEAR HOW MUCH LOWER IT IS THAN MINE.
WHEN I HEAR HIS VOICE, WITHOUT SEEING HIM..
THIS THOUGHT POPPED INTO MY HEAD WHEN WE WERE WALKING HOME, TOO.
?
waaaah
WHAT WAS THAT?
N-NOTHING!
NOTHING AT ALL!
I
I SEE
UH, MAYBE I SHOULD PRETEND LIKE I DIDN'T HEAR THAT
TALKING ON THE PHONE LIKE THIS...
I LIKE IT.
I REALLY..
...REALLY...
mumble

WHEN I TOLD KURIHARA-SAN THAT THE BARBECUE'S GONNA BE BY A RIVER...
...SHE SEEMED REALLY EXCITED.
We'll be nice and cool

OH!
OH, YEAH!!! MOMO KUN, BEFORE I FORGET!!
YEAH?
UM, WHERE ARE WE HAVING THE BARBECUE?


?!
really?
so we can swim, huh?

H-HEY, ACTUALLY, I THINK I CAN COME AFTER ALL.
cool
chatter
chatter

A CUTE PINK BIKINI WITH FRILLS...
EP18: MY PRINCE
A PURE BIKINI WITH WHITE LACE..
and a matching dress
OR A SEXY BIKINI WITH A DARING DESIGN...

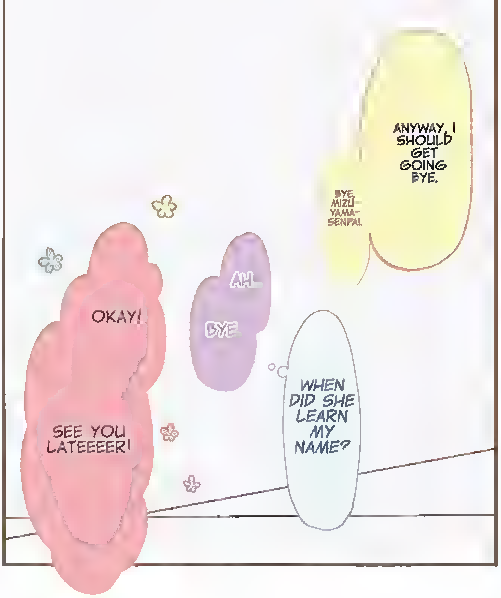
HUH?!
CAN I GO HOME ALREADY?
WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK I SHOULD WEAR?

I need to buy suntan lotion and spray-on deodorant and, oh, bug repellent, too!
IT'S BEEN FIVE HOURS!
WE'VE BEEN AT THIS ALL DAY.
PUT YOURSELF IN YOUR SHOPPING BUDDY'S SHOES.
isn't this cute?
that's flashy...
S-SORRY
I WAS HOPING TO RELAX ON THE FIRST DAY OF SUMMER BREAK
it's a barbecue, not a sleepover
JULY 19
THE SWIMSUIT IS THE LAST THING I NEED!
wait-
HUH?

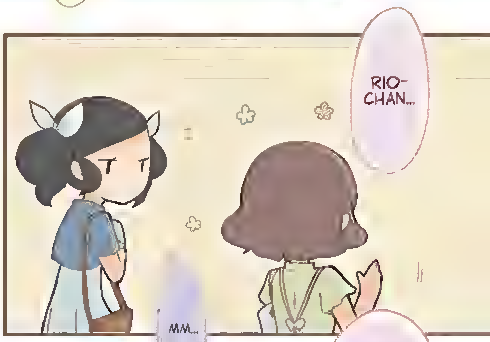
?
RIO-CHAN!
ACK!
SENPAI.

AH..
NO, I'M JUST LOOKING AT KITCHEN STUFF, SINCE I'M OUT GROCERY SHOPPING
RIO-CHAN, ARE YOU CLOTHES SHOPPING, TOO?

sm...
HIII...
patter patter
waah!
HI!
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE!
I THINK I SAW A VERY UNHAPPY FACE FOR AN INSTANT THERE.

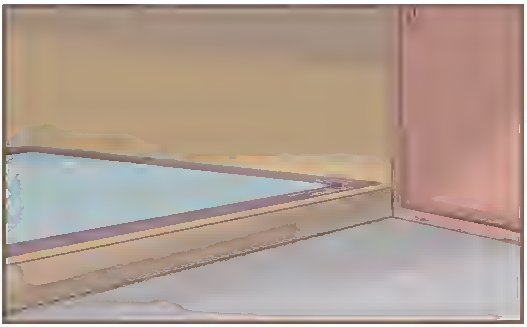

ANYWAY, I SHOULD GET GOING BYE.
BYE, MIZU-YAMA-SENPAI!
AH...
BYE
OKAY!
SEE YOU LATEEEER!
WHEN DID SHE LEARN MY NAME?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
OUR FRYING PAN IS LOOKING PRETTY BURNT LATELY, SO I WAS THINKING ABOUT GETTING A NEW ONE
WOW!
YOU'RE ALMOST LIKE A HOUSE-WIFE!
...
HA HA...

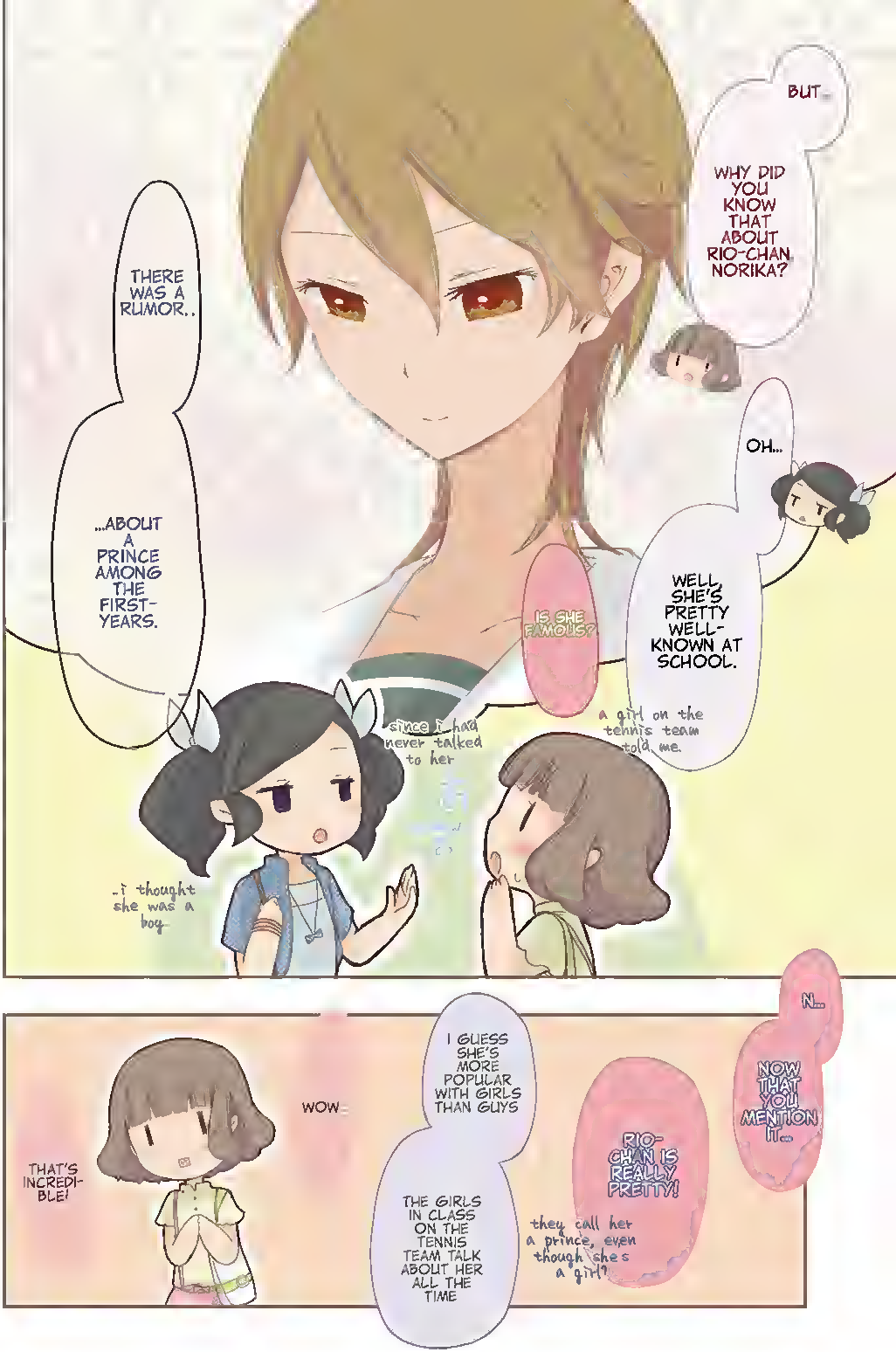

RIO-CHAN...

slam
I'M HOME!

MM...
HMM.
SHE COOKS AT HOME— WHAT A HARD WORKER!
I DON'T THINK IT'S THAT, EXACTLY



OH RIGHT NIGHT SHIFT TONIGHT
GUESS I ONLY NEED TO MAKE DINNER FOR ONE, THEN
what to make...
NO SHOES
I HAD NO IDEA.
I...
SO RIO-CHAN DOES THE COOKING BECAUSE SHE LIVES ALONE WITH HER DAD...
I HOPE I DIDN'T MAKE HER UPSET WHEN I SAID SHE'S LIKE A HOUSEWIFE.
OH, UH.
WHO KNOWS?
MAYBE I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HER...?


BUT...
WHY DID YOU KNOW THAT ABOUT RIO-CHAN, NORIKA?
OH...
WELL, SHE'S PRETTY WELL-KNOWN AT SCHOOL.
A girl on the tennis team told me.
IS SHE F.MOUS?
THERE WAS A RUMOR..
...ABOUT A PRINCE AMONG THE FIRST-YEARS.
since I had never talked to her
-I thought she was a boy-
N...
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
RIO-CHAN IS REALLY PRETTY!
they call her a prince, even though she's a girl?
I GUESS SHE'S MORE POPULAR WITH GIRLS THAN GUYS
THE GIRLS IN CLASS ON THE TENNIS TEAM TALK ABOUT HER ALL THE TIME
WOW...
THAT'S INCREDI-BLE!

?!
MOMO-KUN REALLY IS THE ONLY THING YOU'RE INTERESTED IN!
I'M INTERESTED!
A LITTLE! HONESTLY!
YOU KNOW...
HEH.
ALSO...
ACTUALLY, I LOOKED INTO HER BECAUSE I WAS A LITTLE CURIOUS, AND...
..IS THE ONLY PRINCE FOR ME.
IT'S...
IT'S JUST...
OH, REALLY?
MOMO-KUN...
ha ha ha ha ha

AAH! WAIT!
MY SWIMSUIT! PLEASE HELP ME PICK A SWIMSUIT! THAT'S IT!
YOU KNOW, I WOULD LOVE TO GO HOME SO I CAN PUNCH A WALL RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
well, whatever. it's not like it's my problem.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GO WITH THIS?
OH MY GOD! THAT'S SO INDECENT!

IS THIS...
IS...
ONLY PEELING & CHOPPING
num num
num num
EP19: HARD TO EXPLAIN

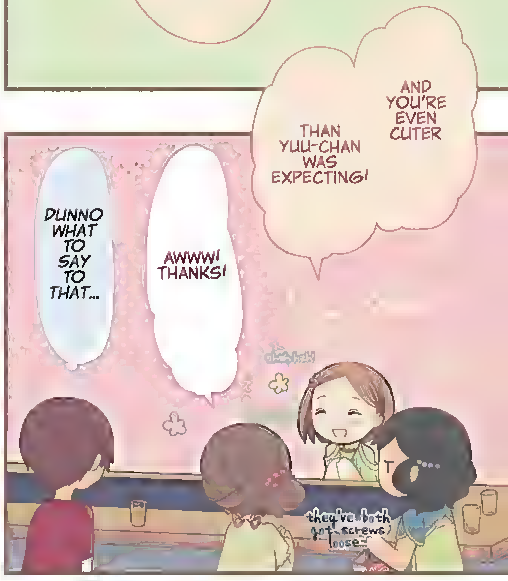
I practiced peeling potatoes!
*SEE CHAPTER 9
YOU SAWAGUCHIS ARE SO RUDE.
A WORLD WHERE WOMEN RULE THE KITCHEN?!

I'M EMA, RIHITO'S BIG BROTHER. NICE TO MEETCHA!
NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL HERE, I SHOULD REINTRO-DUCE MYSELF.
call me ema-kun, 'kay?
TODAY'S BARBECUE MEAT IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY MY BIG BRO JUST GETTING DUMPED BY HIS GIRLFRIEND.
WAH!
USAMIN, YOU'RE A SWEETHEART!
U-"USA-MIN"...?
THAT'S NOT YOUR NAME?
huh?
YUU WAS CALLING YOU THAT, SO I JUST ASSUMED.
yuu-chan wants meat
after you finish those veggies.
HNNG...
MII-CHAN SAID SHE WANTED TO EAT SOME GOOD BEEF, SO I ORDERED FIVE KILOS OF A BRAND THAT TAKES SIX MONTHS TO SHIP...
AND THEN FIVE AND A HALF MONTHS LATER, SHE DUMPED YOUR BUTT
CUT IT OUT, SAWA-GUCHI. I FEEL BAD FOR HIM.
wait, five whole kilos?

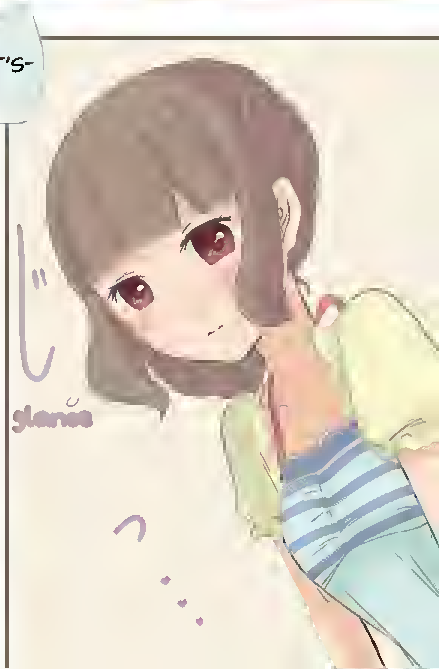
USAMIN IS REALLY RESPONSIBLE AND NICE, YOU KNOW!
YUU-CHAN'S ACTUAL NAME IS SHIMADA YUZUKI!
HEH HEH HEH!
I MEAN, IT'S A NICKNAME
MY ACTUAL NAME IS USAMI IKUE.
OHH THUS, "USAMIN"
it sounds like a little guy who'd follow you around after you peeled him
NICE TO MEET YOU!
YUU-CHAN'S BEEN DYYYYING TO MEET MOMO-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND!
OH WOW, REALLY?
UH HUH!
YUU-CHAN HAS KNOWN MOMO-KUN
SINCE PRIMARY SCHOOL! SAWA-KUN, TOO!
YOU ALL SEEM SO CLOSE. HAVE YOU KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A LONG TIME?

AND YOUR OUTFIT'S REALLY CUTE, TOO!
RIGHT, MOMO-KUN?
she's asking me?!
WHA?!

MOMO-KUN'S AAAALWAYS BEEN A CUTIE
SO I THOUGHT, "I BET HIS GIRL-FRIEND'S CUTE, TOO."


AND YOU'RE EVEN CUTER THAN YUU-CHAN WAS EXPECTING!
DUNNO WHAT TO SAY TO THAT...
AWWW! THANKS!
they've both got screws loose...

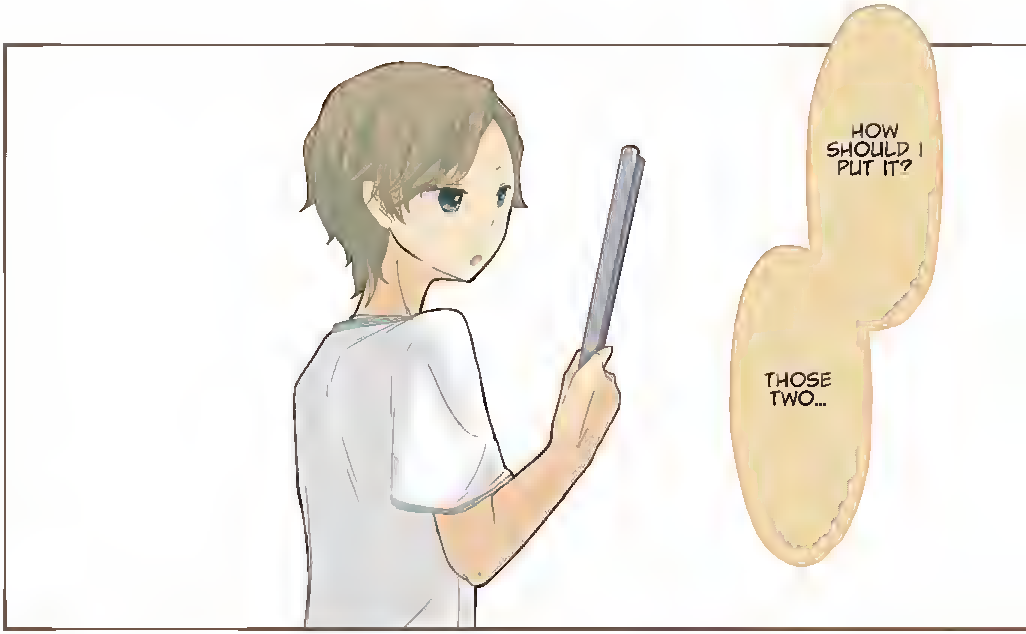
...C...
CUTE.
...


IT'S-
glance

CAN I GET ANY-BODY ANY-THING?!
I'M GOING TO GO BUY ICE ANY-WAY!
AWW!
I'LL GO WITH YOU, MOMO-KUN!
MOMO-KUN'S SO SHY!
MOMO-TSUKI'S CUTE WHEN HE'S FLUSTERED. BUT I GOT SO DISTRACTED BY THAT, I LET HIM GO OFF ALONE...
...
I HOPE KURIHARA-SAN DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING WEIRD TO HIM.
OH!
I LEFT A BAG OF SNACKS IN THE CAR.
EMA-KUN! KEYS, PLEASE!
HERE YA GO!
TCH. HAPPY PEOPLE SHOULD EXPLODE.
JEAL-OUSY...
MAKES FOR AN UGLY FACE ON A GUY
I'M NOT SURE YOU'RE ONE TO TALK, RIHITO-
I hope momo croaks!

smack
GACK!!
I'M FI-
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
YOU WANT ME TO COME, TOO?
NOPE!
?!
quiver
quiver
quiver
quiver
JEEZ...
YOU SHOULD WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING.

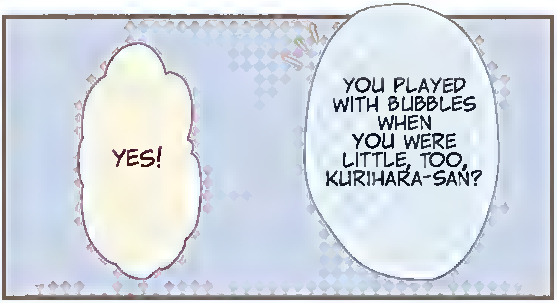
SHOUTA-CHAN...
EMA-KUN, YOU HAD A FIRST AID KIT IN YOUR CAR, RIGHT?
NO, IT'S OKAY.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT.
YEAH. YOU WANT ME TO PATCH HER UP?
'KAY.
IS SOMETHING GOING ON BETWEEN THOSE TWO?
you, mamo-kun, and yuu-chan all went to the same primary school right?
AH-
you mean shizuka and shimada?
...
SAY, SAWAGUCHI-KUN...
whisper
WELL, THOSE TWO ARE AS CLOSE AS EVER-

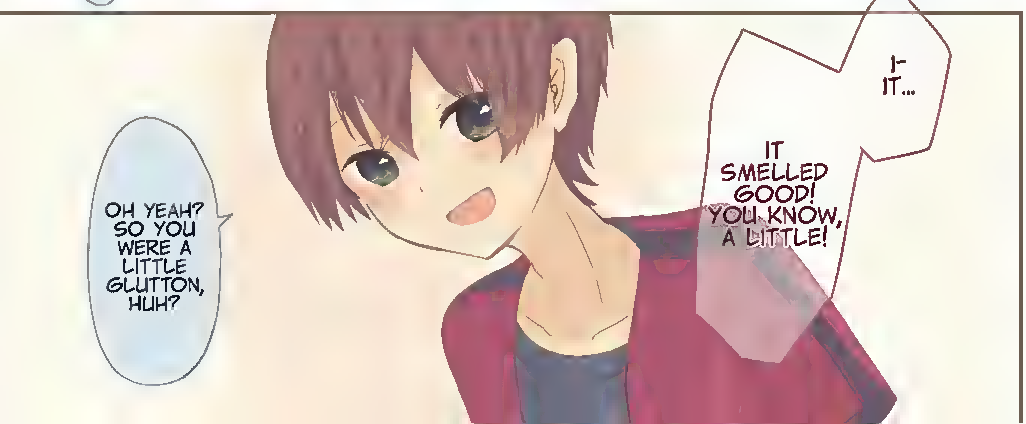

HOW SHOULD I PUT IT?
THOSE TWO...

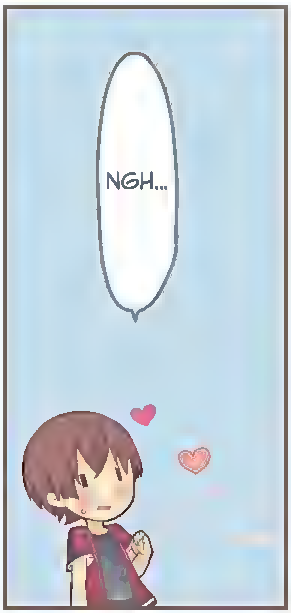
THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.

EP20: BLOWING BUBBLES

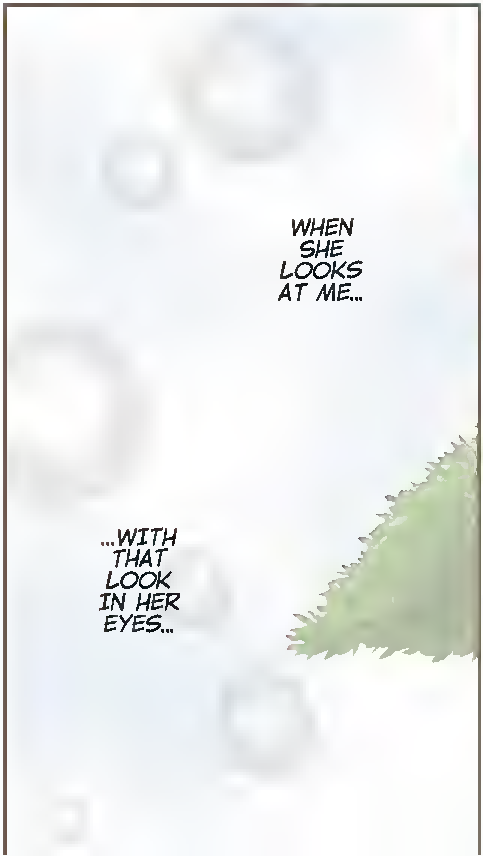
I WANTED TO BLOW BIIIG BUBBLES, SO I'D ADD HONEY AND STUFF, BUT THEN IT SEEMED LIKE IT WOULD TASTE GOOD, SO...
I EVEN WENT AND DRANK IT ONCE!
ADD SUGAR AND THE BUBBLES BECOME HARDER TO POP!
AHA HA HA!
SERIOUSLY? WHAT THE HECK!





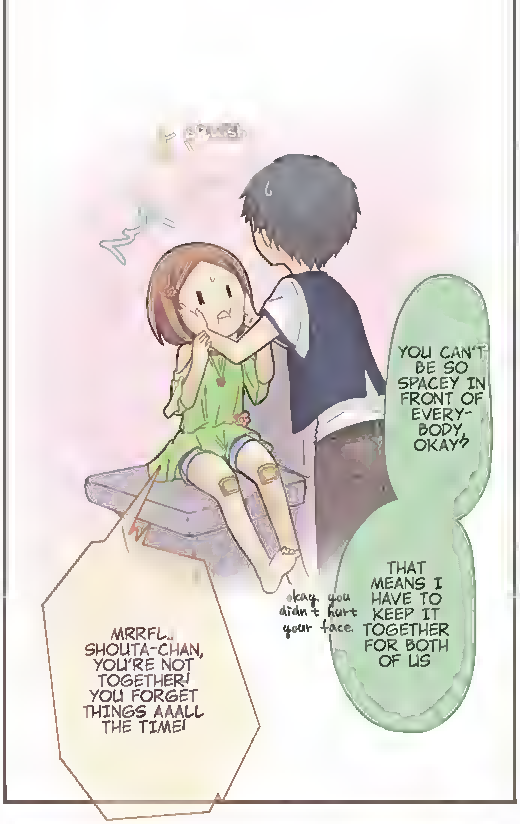

NGH...

THAT'S KINDA CU...
ack!
...!


WHEN SHE LOOKS AT ME...
...WITH THAT LOOK IN HER EYES...

JEEZ...
W...
WANT TO BUY SOME, THEN?
OKAY!

OW.
OWIIEE!
URGH..
JUST BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON, OKAY?
OK-AAAY...
YOU'RE ALWAYS IN SUCH A RUSH
THAT'S WHY YOU FALL, YOU KNOW YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!
YUZUKI'S DAD...
ehhh?
BUT YOUR MOM SAID YUU-CHAN TAKES AFTER HER DAD!
aha ha ha
YEAH, SHE MEANT YOUR LOOKS.
...AND MY MOM ARE BROTHER AND SISTER.
...
THE WAY YOU GET SO ABSORBED IN WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING..
IT'S JUST LIKE MY MOM.


YOU CAN'T BE SO SPACEY IN FRONT OF EVERY-BODY, OKAY?
THAT MEANS I HAVE TO KEEP IT TOGETHER FOR BOTH OF US
okay, you didn't hurt your face.
MRRFL.. SHOUTA-CHAN, YOU'RE NOT TOGETHER! YOU FORGET THINGS AAALL THE TIME!

OH, BUT...
FOR COUSINS, WE DON'T LOOK MUCH ALIKE!

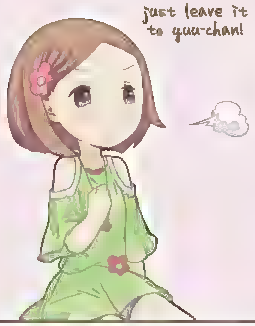
WHY?
YOU PROMISED WE'D ALWAYS BE TOGETHER WHEN WE WERE LITTLE, DIDN'T YOU?

EH...?
AHA HA HA!
YEAH, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S NOT LIKE WE CAN BE TOGETHER FOREVER. WE BOTH HAVE TO LEARN TO WATCH OUT FOR OURSELVES

YUZUKI AND I...

...HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR AS LONG AS WE CAN REMEMBER.

BUT...



SO WE CAN JUST KEEP COMPENSATING FOR EACH OTHER'S FLAWS! IT'LL ALL BE OKAY IF WE WORK TOGETHER!

YUZUKI'S "ALWAYS"...

YUZUKI...

YOU JUST WANTED TO TRY USING THE WORD "COMPENSATE", DIDN'T YOU?

...ISN'T ALWAYS AND FOREVER.

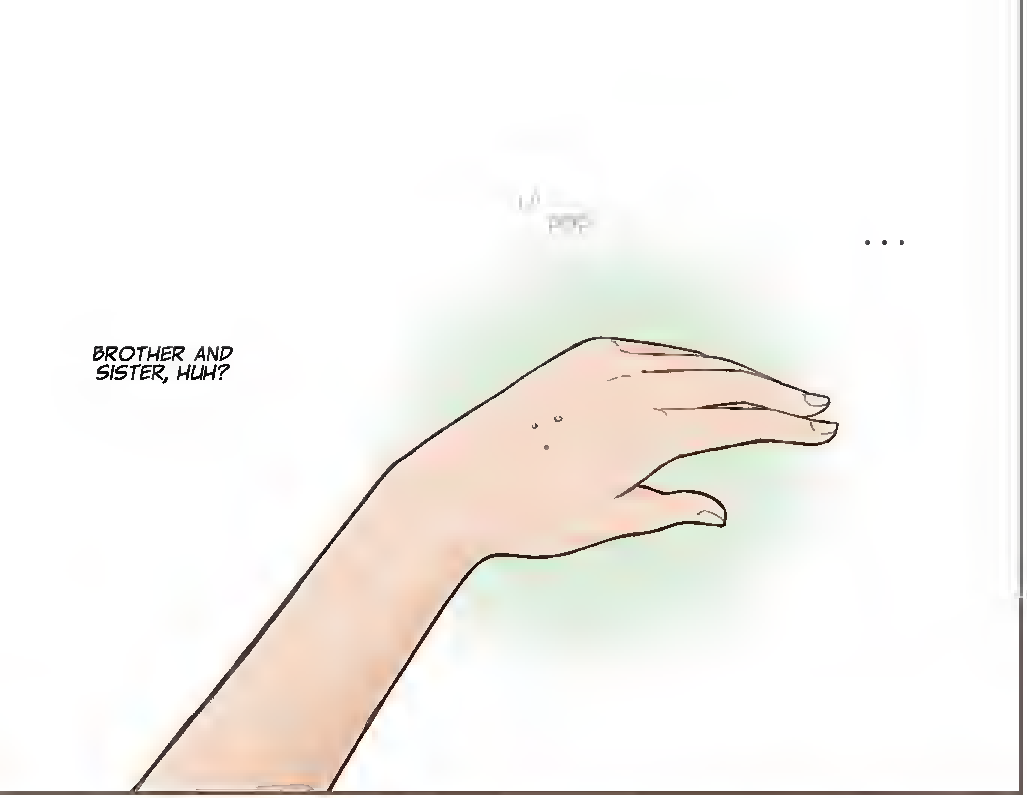
HEH HEH HEH!

>_<

SO IT HAS TO BE FUNNY FOR YOU TO CARE. I SEE
YEAH BUT IF YOU SAY THAT TO THEM, THEY JUST BRUSH IT OFF.
PLUS, TEASING THEM ABOUT IT ISN'T ANY FUN, SO I JUST LET IT DROP
she just says "shouta-chan belongs to yuu-chan!" and stuff like that.

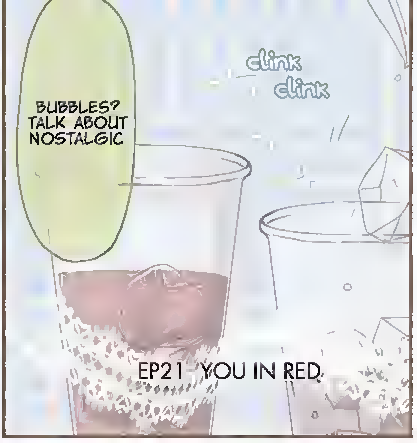
HUH?
THEY'RE REALLY JUST COUSINS? THEY'RE AWFULLY CLINGY FOR TWO PEOPLE WHO AREN'T GOING OUT.

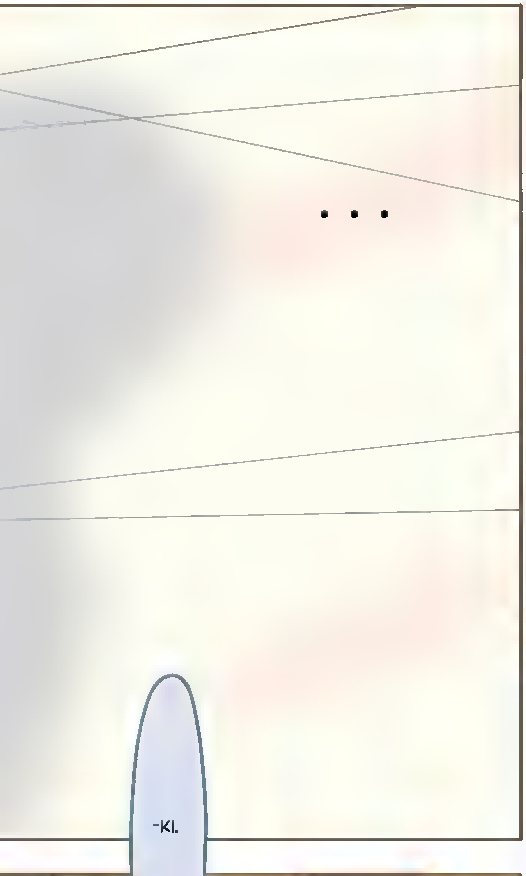
EH, I THINK THEY'RE BASICALLY LIKE... BROTHER AND SISTER, I GUESS.
HMM...


...
BROTHER AND SISTER, HUH?

WANT TO TRY, KURIHARA-SAN?
!
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE DILEMMA!
I WANT TO TAKE THAT STRAW HOME AND PRESERVE IT, WITH ONLY MOMO-KUN HAVING USED IT..
OH! MY! G-G-G-OD! AN INDIRECT KISS?! W-WAIT, BUT...

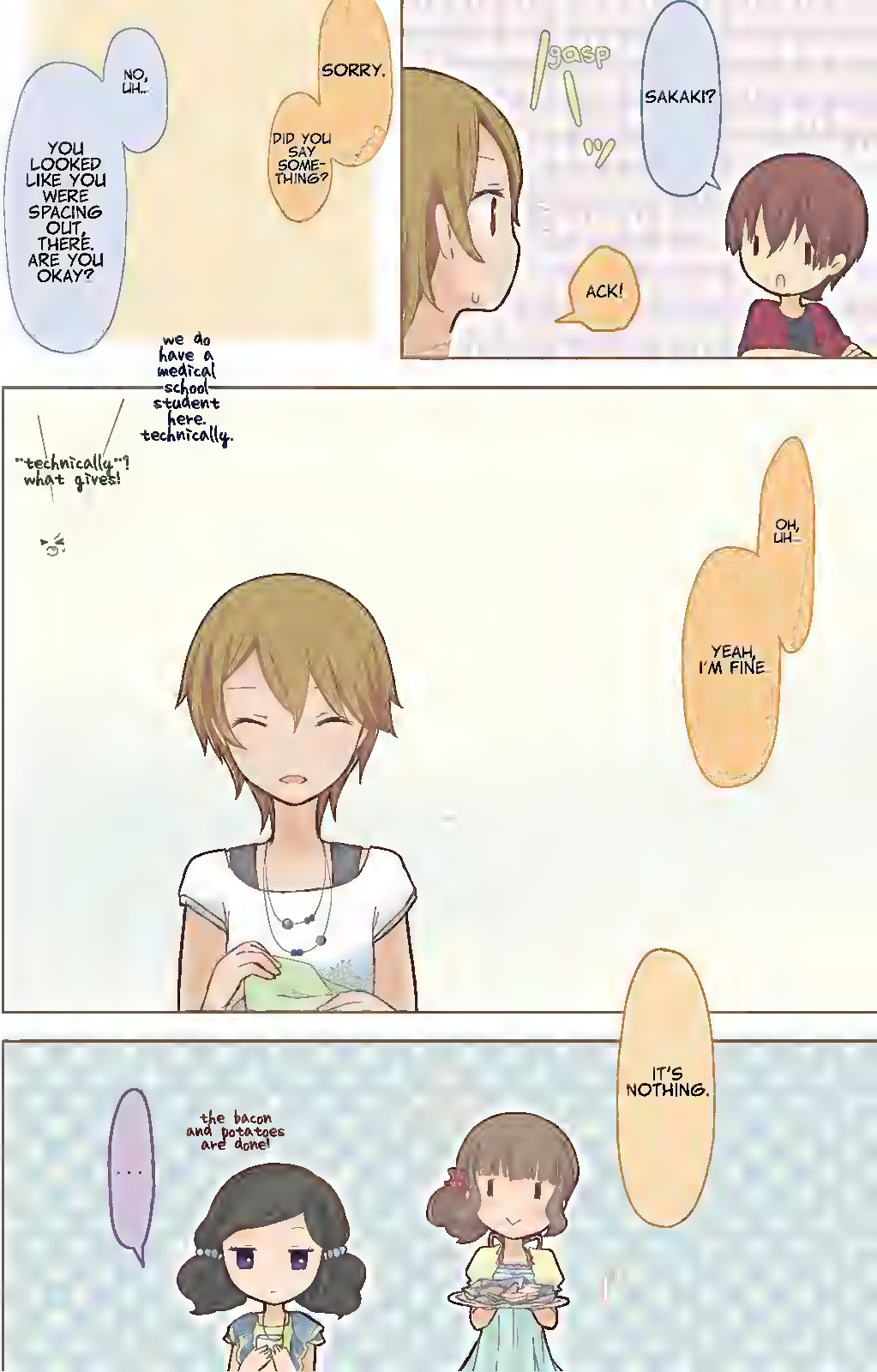
THEY WERE SELLING FRISBIES AND WATER GUNS AND STUFF LIKE THAT, TOO.

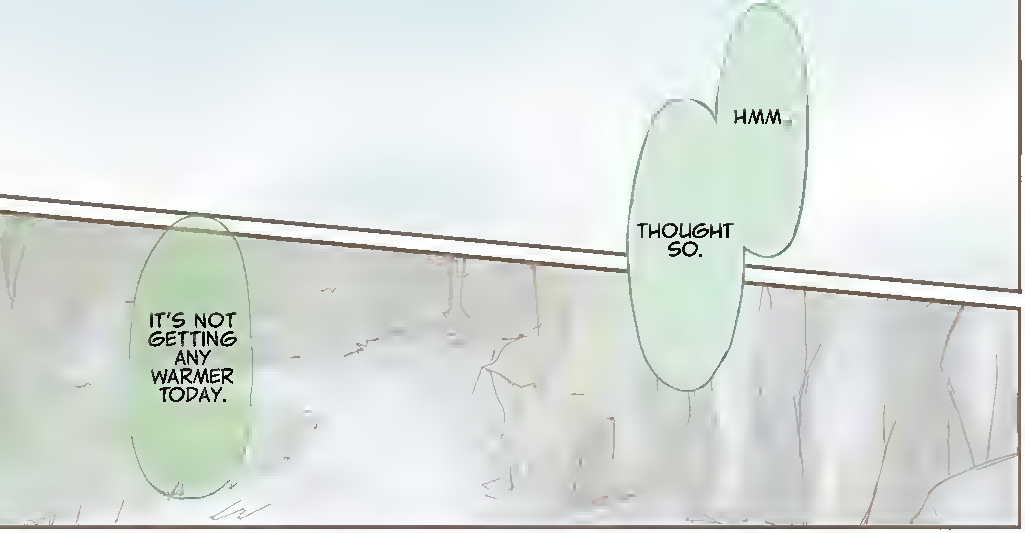

BUBBLES? TALK ABOUT NOSTALGIC
clink clink
EP21 YOU IN RED

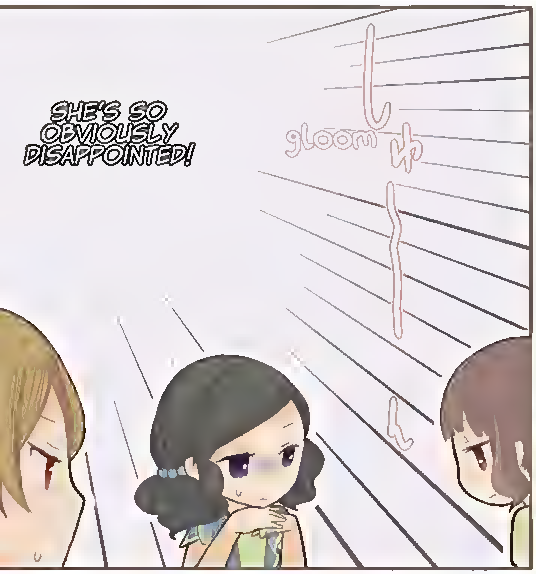

. . .
-KI.

NO KIDDING?
i should buy some later.
. . .

ha ha! what fun!
to go after happy people!
hey...

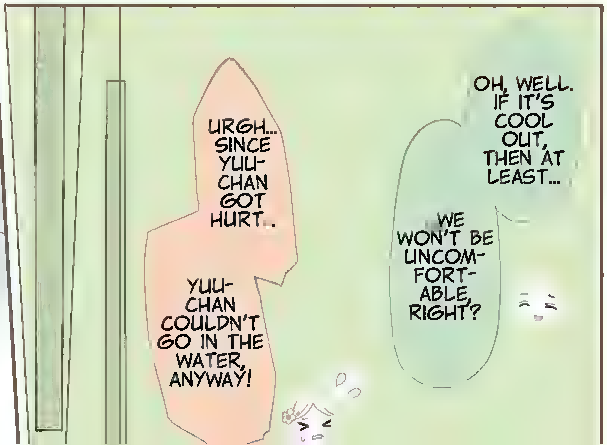

NO, UH..
YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE SPACING OUT, THERE. ARE YOU OKAY?
SORRY.
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?
/gasp
SAKAKI?
ACK!
we do have a medical school student here. technically.
"technically"? what gives!
OH, UH—
YEAH, I'M FINE.
IT'S NOTHING.
...
the bacon and potatoes are done!


IT'S NOT GETTING ANY WARMER TODAY.
HMM.
THOUGHT SO.


SHE'S SO OBVIOUSLY DISAPPOINTED!
gloom

GUESS WE WON'T BE SWIM-MING.
...

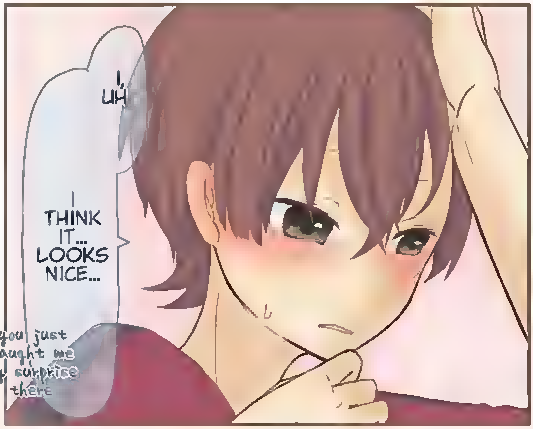
splash

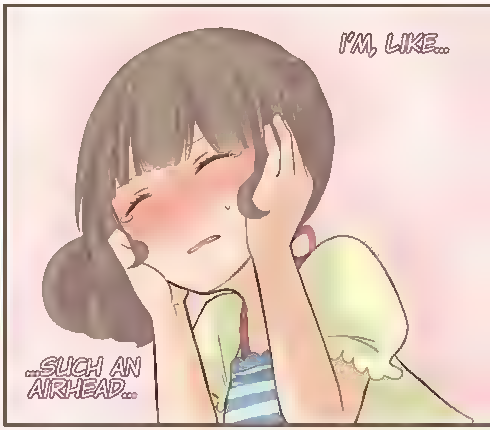

URGH... SINCE YUU-CHAN GOT HURT..
YUU-CHAN COULDN'T GO IN THE WATER, ANYWAY!
OH, WELL. IF IT'S COOL OUT, THEN AT LEAST...
WE WON'T BE UNCOM-FORT-ABLE, RIGHT?

WOOOW!
THE WATER FEELS NICE AND COOL!
YUP
JUST A LITTLE TOO COLD TO SWIM IN.
OH YEAH. SUCH A LETDOWN..
chuckle
KURI-HARA-SAN!
DID YOU WANT TO SWIM THAT BADLY?
i didn't realize you were the athletic type
NO, NO..
IT'S NOT THAT..
もものくんの水着姿が見たかったのです!!
大きくプリントアウトして部屋の壁一面にはりつけたい!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
YOU CAN'T TELL HIM THAT!
OH

RIGHT, I ALMOST FORGOT!
ACTUALLY, TODAY I...
...WORE A SWIMSUIT...
WAIT!
WH...
WHAAAA?!
KURI-HARA-SAN!
...UNDER MY..
STOP!

U-UH, NO!
THAT'S NOT WHY I TOLD YOU TO STOP, OKAY?!
I AM SO SORRY! THAT WAS SO NOT APPROPRIATE!
oh my goood what am i doiing?!
ひゃぁぁ
hyaaaa


UH
I THINK IT... LOOKS NICE...
you just caught me by surprise there


I'M, LIKE...
...SUCH AN AIRHEAD...

!
AND I, UH..

SO, UH... YEAH.

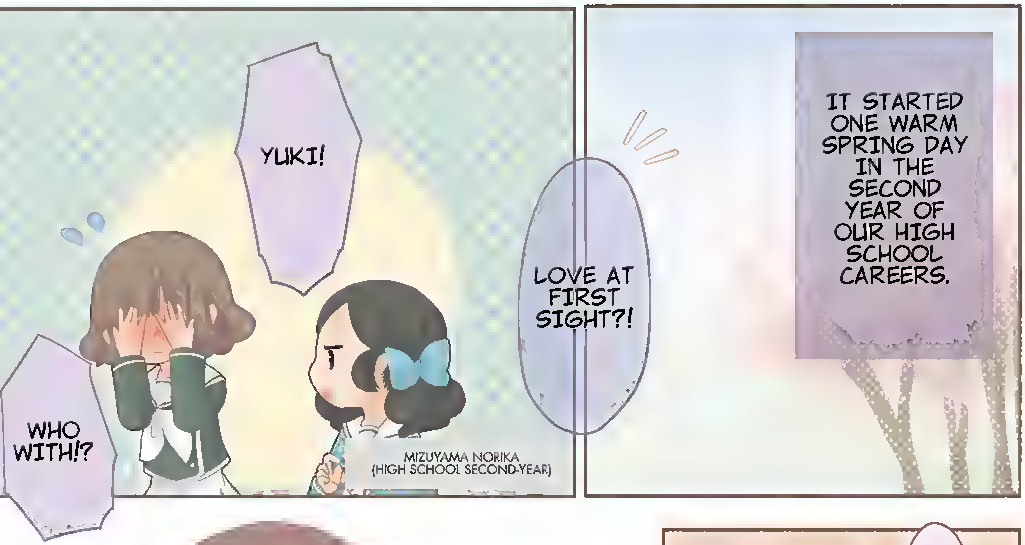
I LIKE.. THE COLOR RED.
OH, I'M WELL AWARE!

I THINK IT'S, UH... CUTE.
...
THE SWIM-SUIT!
I MEAN THE SWIM-SUIT!
OKAY?!
O-OKAY!
YES, ABSOLUTELY, OF COURSE!

HEY,
YUKI...
HOW MANY POTATOES DID YOU PEEL, EXACTLY...?
A WHOLE MOUND OF POTATO SLICES
we have a bunch of meat left too. there's enough here for a food fight.
I WAS SO EXCITED THAT SOMEONE WAS PRAISING MY COOKING, I JUST COULDN'T STOP...

KURIHARA YUKI
(HIGH SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR)

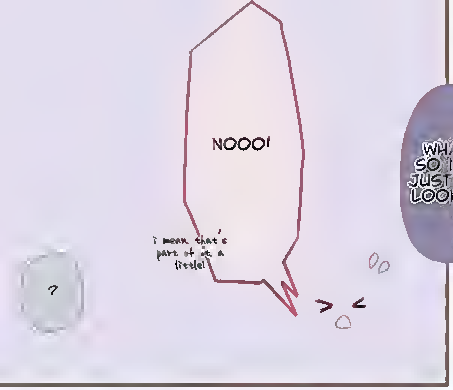
SIDE STORY 1 - KURIHARA YUKI & MIZUYAMA NORIKA

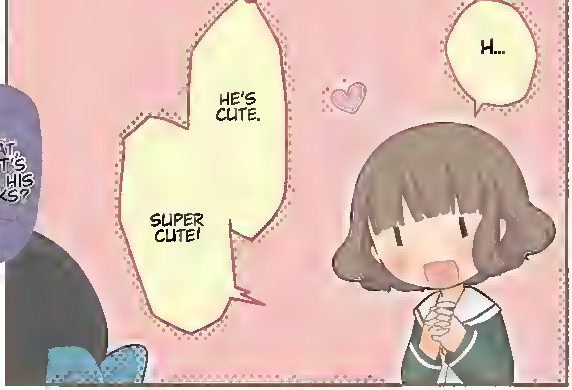

YUKI!
WHO WITH!?
MIZUYAMA NORIKA
(HIGH SCHOOL SECOND-YEAR)
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?!
IT STARTED ONE WARM SPRING DAY IN THE SECOND YEAR OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL CAREERS.

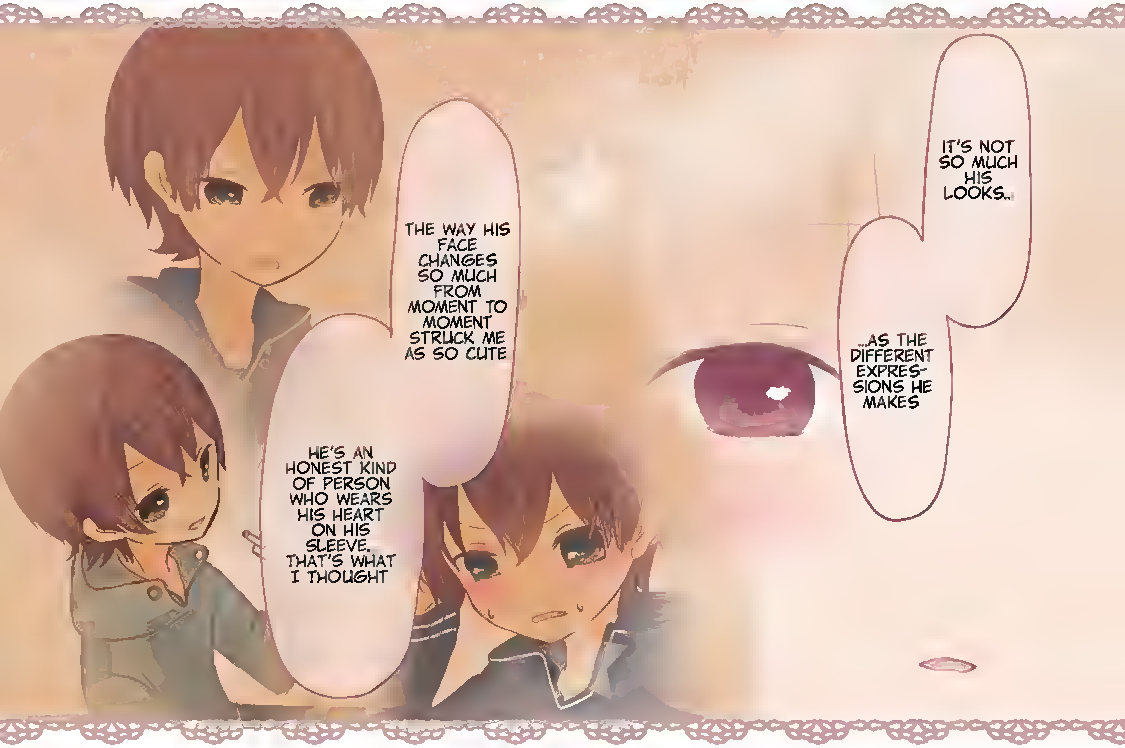
TOOK YOU TWO LONG ENOUGH!
SORRY, MOMO-CHAAAAAN!
I WENT LIKE THIS AND...
MOMO-KUN WAS LEANING RIGHT HERE.
...
HE'S SO SHORT.
face isn't bad though.
D-DON'T BE MEAN!
HE'S ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY CENTIMETERS TALL!
that's taller than me!
...?
UH, WHY DO YOU KNOW THAT? HOW DID YOU MEASURE HIM?
I'LL LOSE MOMO-KUN!
i don't know what class he's in yet, so i need to follow him!
AH!
...

I snuck out of gym class to take photos of momo-kun in the chemistry club. ehehe!
o-oh really...
NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS...
I got momo-kun's class schedule!
how?!
月 火 水 木 金
YUKI AND I WERE BOTH IN THE WIND INSTRUMENTS CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
THEN, WHEN WE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL, WE ENDED UP IN THE SAME CLASS. I GUESS WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR A PRETTY LONG WHILE, BUT
...WOULD I HAVE IMAGINED THIS SIDE OF HER.
YUKI, YOU'RE VERY... AGGRESIVE IN A WEIRD WAY.
YOU THINK I'M WEIRD?!
SHE'S, UH.
SHE WOULDN'T WOULD SHE?

HEY, YUKI...
YOU HONESTLY...
LIKE THIS MOMO-KUN GUY, DON'T YOU?
URGH!
I ADMIT, I SORT OF HAD THAT FEELING, BUT..
I KNOW YOU ARE. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A TOTAL STALKER.
バレたら捕まるぞ
if anybody sees, the cops'll be coming for you.
...BUT...
WE'RE IN DIFFERENT GRADES...
...AND I HAVEN'T HAD ANY GOOD CHANCES TO TALK TO HIM
Y...
YEAH!!

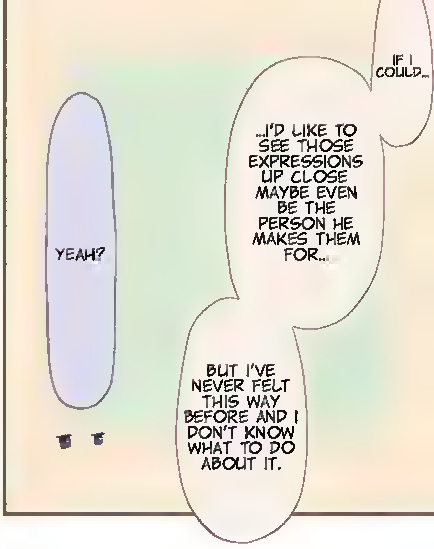

NOOO!
I mean, that's part of it a little!
?


WHAT, SO IT'S JUST HIS LOOKS?
HE'S CUTE.
SUPER CUTE!
H...


THE WAY HIS FACE CHANGES SO MUCH FROM MOMENT TO MOMENT STRUCK ME AS SO CUTE
HE'S AN HONEST KIND OF PERSON WHO WEARS HIS HEART ON HIS SLEEVE. THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT
IT'S NOT SO MUCH HIS LOOKS..
...AS THE DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS HE MAKES

WHILE HER WAY OF EXPRESSING IT IS KIND OF OUT THERE, THE REASON SHE FELL FOR HIM
IS ACTUALLY PRETTY NORMAL
HMM.

UWAAH! WHAT A WASTE!
i have 10 pics right now want to see?
FOR NOW, I CONSIDER LOOKING AT PHOTOS OF HIM..
...AS PRACTICE FOR EVENTUALLY TALKING TO HIM!
i'll pass


YEAH?
BUT I'VE NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT.
...I'D LIKE TO SEE THOSE EXPRESSIONS UP CLOSE MAYBE EVEN BE THE PERSON HE MAKES THEM FOR...
IF I COULD...

momo-kun! too cute! too cute! look at that face!
NOW I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF TAKING PICS OF THIS GUY IS HER NEW HOBBY OR SOMETHING
..THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT, ANYWAY

AND SO, YUKI'S "MOMO-KUN COLLECTION" GREW AND GREW...

...AND YUKI OFFICIALLY BECAME MOMO-KUN'S GIRLFRIEND.

SHE ACCOMPLISHED HER (WEIRD) GOAL...

ONLY...

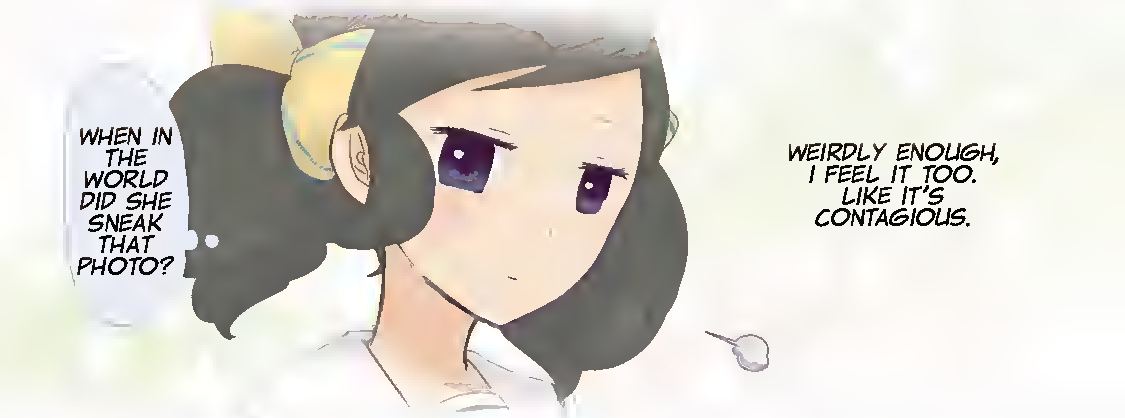
...I THOUGHT YOU'D START ACTING A LITTLE MORE NORMAL.

NOW THAT WE'RE BOYFRIEND AND GIRLFRIEND, I CAN WALK TO SCHOOL WITH HIM EVERY MORNING!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP DOING THAT!
ALSO I CAN COLLECT HIS USED STRAWS LEGALLY!
I HAVE TO!
> <
MOMO-KUN STILL HAS SO MANY EXPRESSIONS THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN!
...
BESIDES! IT'S NOT LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED!
YUKI'S STALKER TENDENCIES DIDN'T GO AWAY FAR FROM IT
EVER SINCE SHE BECAME HIS GIRL-FRIEND, THEY'VE GOTTEN WORSE
ANYWAY...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE HONESTLY JUST CAN'T HOLD IN HER FEELINGS FOR HIM. I GUESS IF THERE'S ANY TROUBLE, I CAN JUST BACK HER UP.

HONESTLY, I SHOULD PROBABLY MAKE HER STOP, EVEN IF I HAVE TO BE FORCEFUL ABOUT IT.

*STALKING IS A CRIME.

BUT SHE JUST LOOKS SO HAPPY.

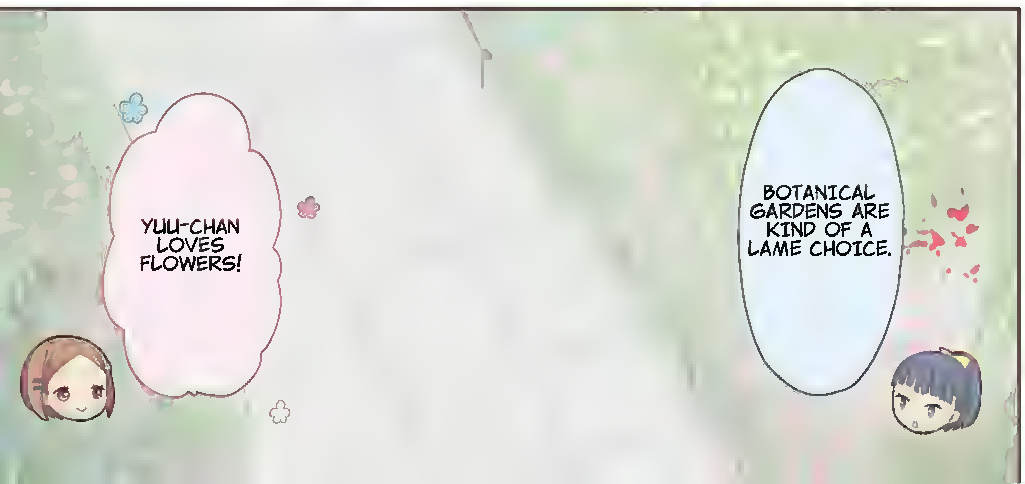


WEIRDLY ENOUGH, I FEEL IT TOO. LIKE IT'S CONTAGIOUS.

SO FOR NOW, AT LEAST... MAYBE THIS ISN'T SO BAD, YOU KNOW?

SAKAKI RIO
(HIGH SCHOOL FIRST-YEAR)

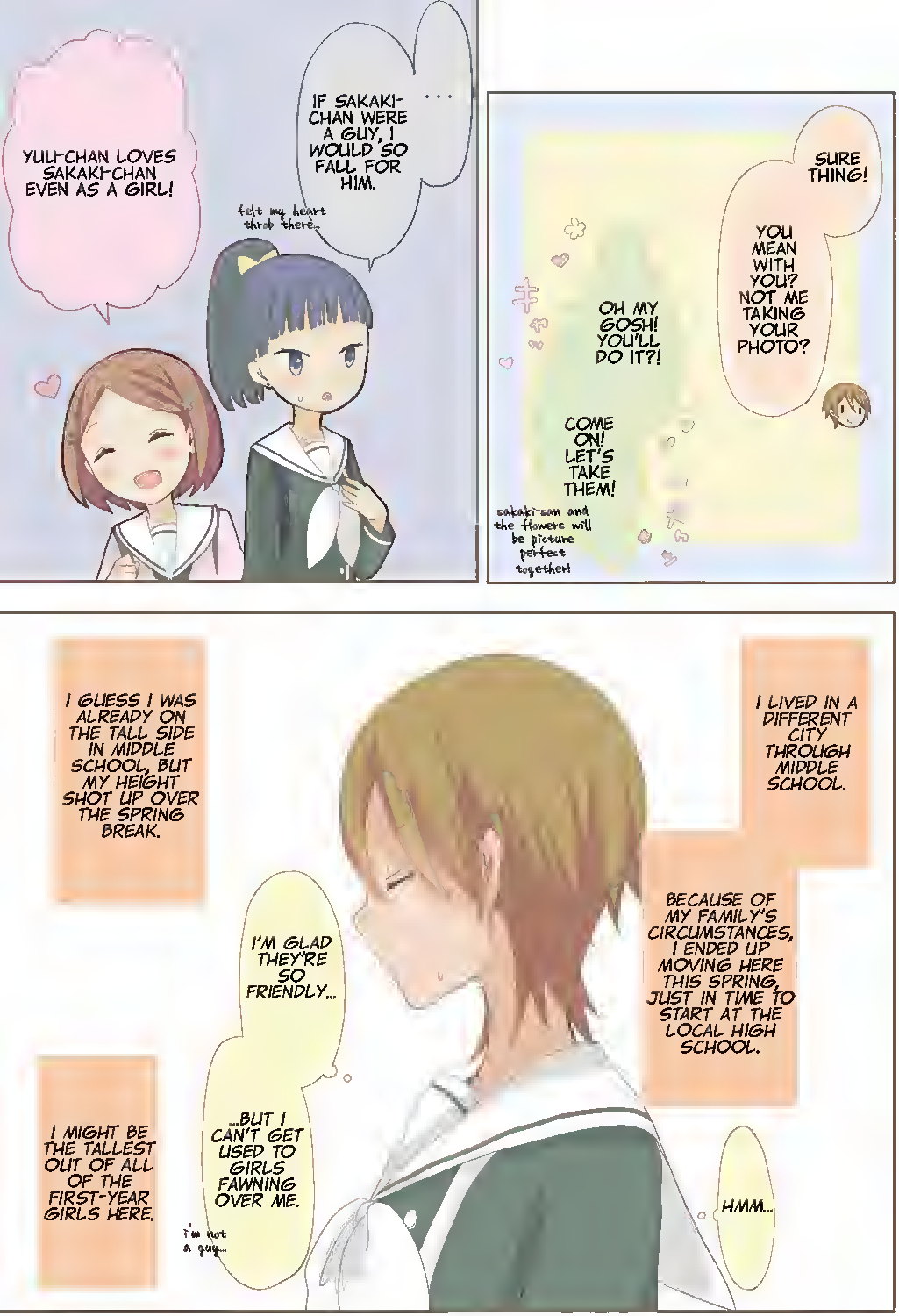
AHAHA! I BET THAT'S PROBABLY THE IDEA.
YUU-CHAN THINKS IT'S SO WE'LL ALL MAKE FRIENDS FAST!
WE ONLY JUST STARTED SCHOOL.
IT'S STILL APRIL, AND WE'RE ALREADY ON A FIELD TRIP? HIGH SCHOOL IS SO WEIRD.
SHIMADA YUZUKI (HIGH SCHOOL FIRST-YEAR)
USAMI IKUE (HIGH SCHOOL FIRST-YEAR)

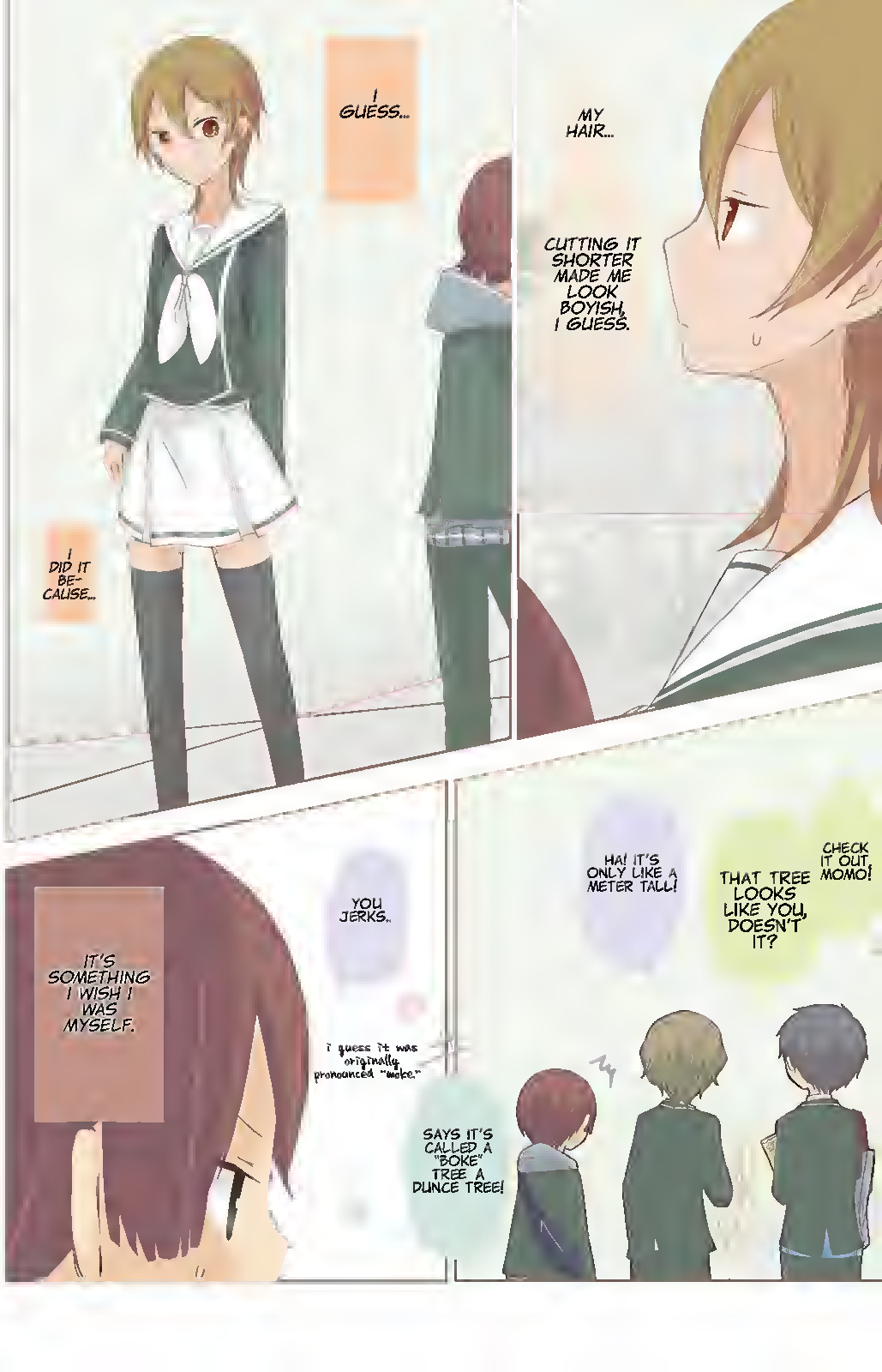


I WAS NERVOUS BECAUSE I JUST MOVED HERE AND DON'T ALREADY KNOW ANYONE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL.
ME, TOO.
BUT AS LONG AS I GET TO SPEND TIME WITH YOU, ANYWHERE IS A BLAST.

...PHOTOS WITH US?
WILL YOU TAKE...

U-
UM!
SAKAKI-SAN!
?


YUU-CHAN LOVES SAKAKI-CHAN EVEN AS A GIRL!
IF SAKAKI-CHAN WERE A GUY, I WOULD SO FALL FOR HIM.
...
felt my heart throb there...
OH MY GOSH! YOU'LL DO IT?!
COME ON! LET'S TAKE THEM!
sakaki-san and the flowers will be picture perfect together!
YOU MEAN WITH YOU? NOT ME TAKING YOUR PHOTO?
SURE THING!
I GUESS I WAS ALREADY ON THE TALL SIDE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, BUT MY HEIGHT SHOT UP OVER THE SPRING BREAK.
I MIGHT BE THE TALLEST OUT OF ALL OF THE FIRST-YEAR GIRLS HERE.
I'M GLAD THEY'RE SO FRIENDLY...
...BUT I CAN'T GET USED TO GIRLS FAWNING OVER ME.
I'm not a guy...
I LIVED IN A DIFFERENT CITY THROUGH MIDDLE SCHOOL.
BECAUSE OF MY FAMILY'S CIRCUMSTANCES, I ENDED UP MOVING HERE THIS SPRING, JUST IN TIME TO START AT THE LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL.
HMM...


I GUESS...
I DID IT BE-CAUSE...
MY HAIR...
CUTTING IT SHORTER MADE ME LOOK BOYISH, I GUESS.
IT'S SOMETHING I WISH I WAS MYSELF.
YOU JERKS..
I guess it was originally pronounced "moke."
SAYS IT'S CALLED A "BOKE" TREE A DUNCE TREE!
HA! IT'S ONLY LIKE A METER TALL!
THAT TREE LOOKS LIKE YOU, DOESN'T IT?
CHECK IT OUT, MOMO!

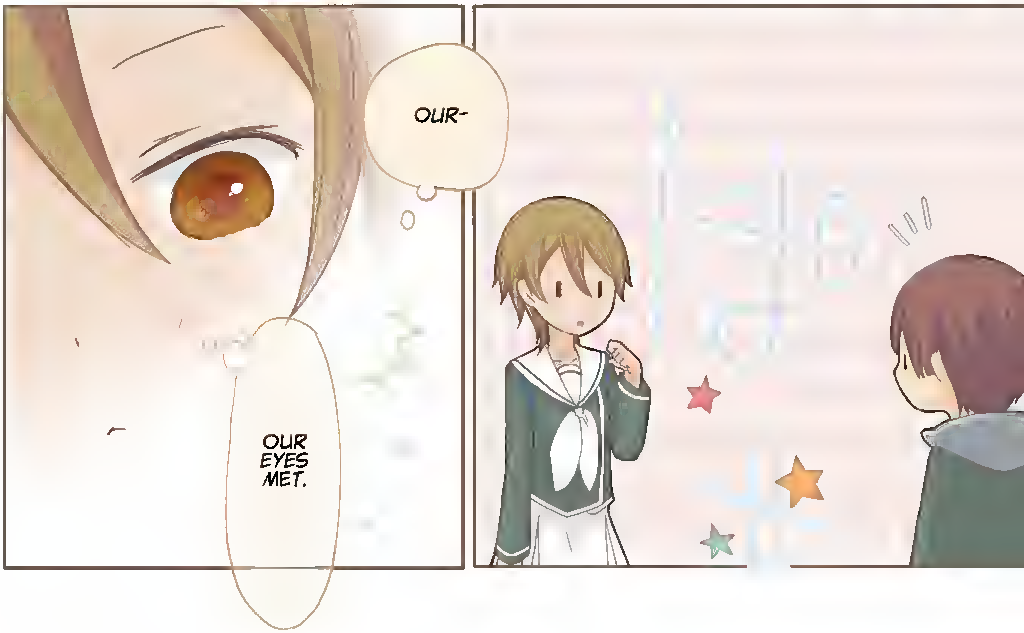
MOMO-TSUKI SHINYA.
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS, BUT WE'VE NEVER SPOKEN. I LEARNED HIS NAME RIGHT AWAY, THOUGH.
LUCKY GUY! I WISH I WAS HIS HEIGHT.
cute.

THAT'S WHY MY HEART PINES...
...FOR SMALL, CUTE THINGS.

these three have been friends since they were little!
YEAH!
HUH? YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH THEM, YUU?

AHH!
IT'S SHOUTA-CHAN AND THE GANG!
!
hmm
you're spacing out.
SAKAKI-CHAN!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?

MOMO WOULD BE THE LITTLE BRO. DUH.
HMPH!
OKAY, THEN BETWEEN MOMO-KUN AND YUU-CHAN, WHO WOULD BE OLDER?
HOW DO YOU FIGURE THAT?!
chuckle
THEY SEEM CLOSE.
I'M SHIZUKA SHOUTA. YOU CAN CALL ME SHIZUKA-CHAN!
we're in the same class.
WHAT ARE YOU, HER DAD?
or I guess a big bro?
I HOPE YUZUKI'S NOT MAKING TOO MUCH TROUBLE FOR YOU.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
NOOO! YUU-CHAN WANTS TO BE THE BIG SIS!
YEAH, YOU'RE NOT THE BIG SISTER TYPE, SHIMADA.
SHIZUKA SHOUTA (HIGH SCHOOL FIRST YEAR)


OUR-
OUR EYES MET.

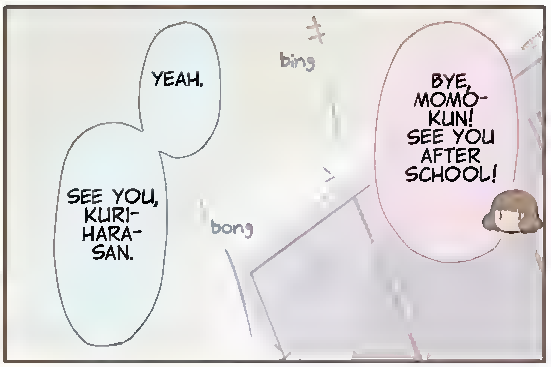
S-
SORRY!
I...
HEY!
YOU JUST LAUGHED AT THAT, DIDN'T YOU?
G...
GRADUATION. I SWEAR I'LL PASS YOU BY THEN!
YEAH, MR AND MRS MOMOTSUKI ARE BOTH SHORT. I THINK IT'S IN YOUR GENES, MA-
shh!
HMMM...
?

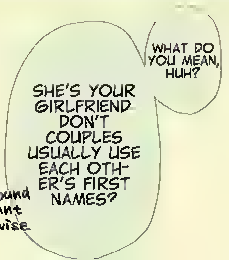
I'M NOT REALLY FOND OF MY HEIGHT, EITHER
BOYS THINK IT'S BEST TO BE TALL.
YOU LOOK LIKE A MODEL!
YOU'RE SLENDER, TOO, AND IT MAKES YOU STAND OUT. I LEARNED WHO YOU WERE RIGHT AWAY!
?
WHY NOT?
BUT AS FOR ME...
...
YOU KNOW...
RIGHT. OF COURSE.
EH, EVEN IF MOMO-KUN STAYS SHORT ALL HIS LIFE..
...HE'LL BE IN DEMAND WITH GIRLS WHO ARE INTO SHOTACON NO BIGGIE.
WHAT?
SHO...
?
I STILL...
...LOVE CUTENESS.

THIS IS A STORY FROM JUST BEFORE SUMMER BREAK...

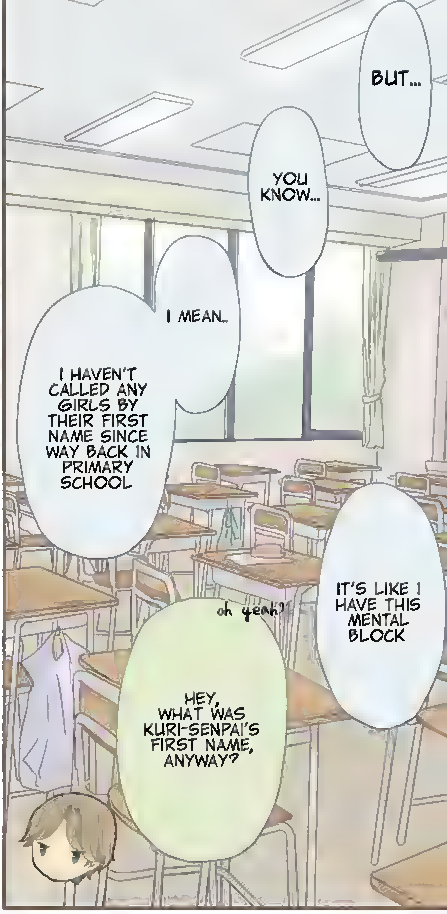
MOMOTSUKI SHINYA
(HIGH SCHOOL FIRST-YEAR)

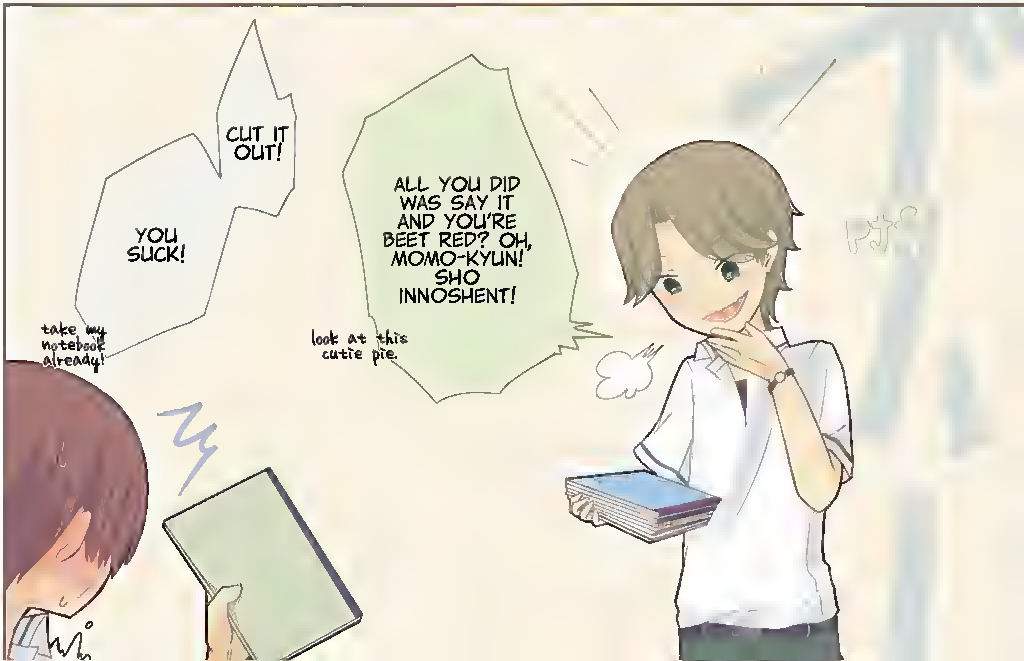
SIDE STORY 3: MOMOTSUKI SHINYA

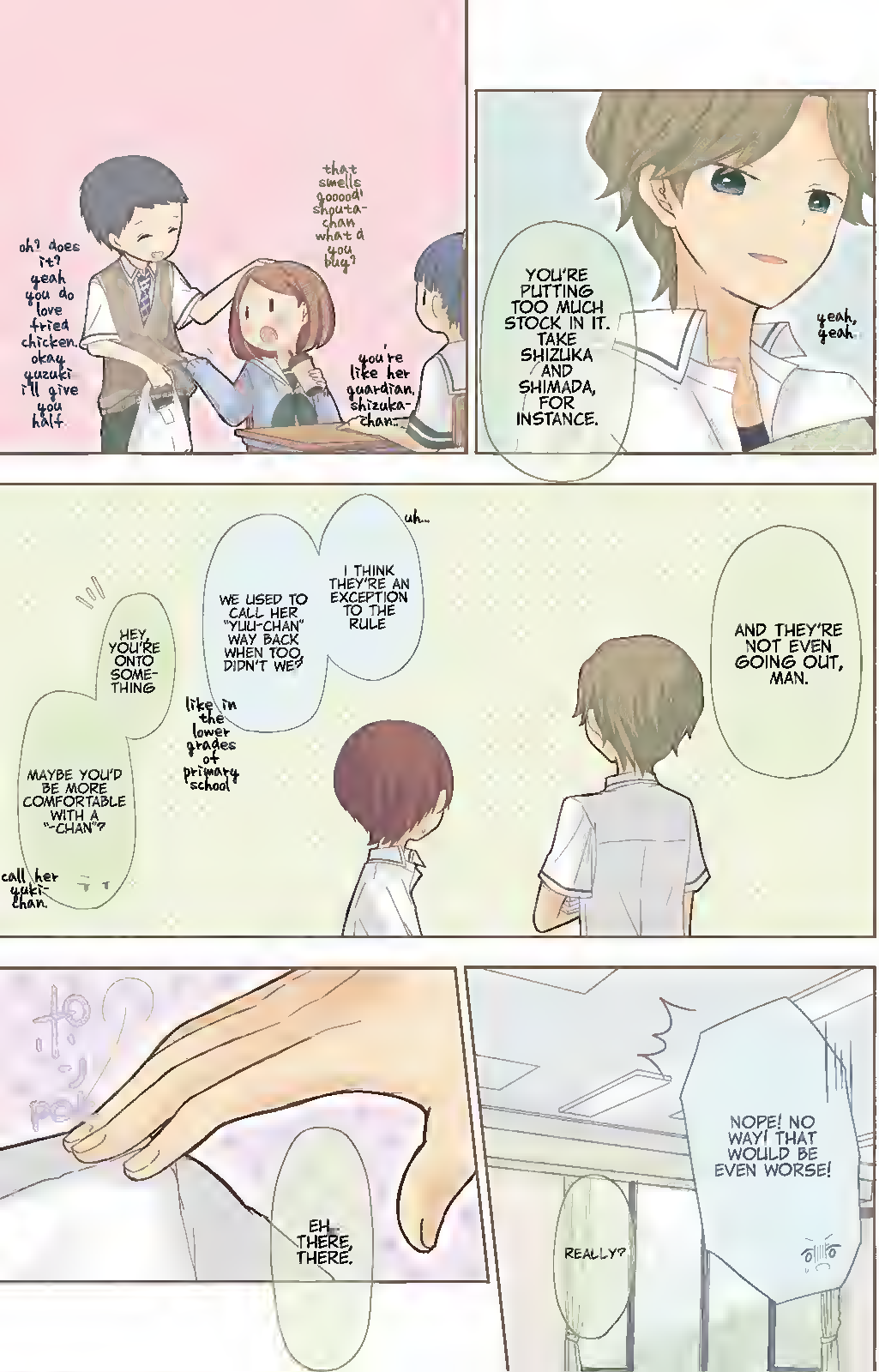




...
Y...
YUKI.


BUT...
YOU KNOW...
I MEAN...
I HAVEN'T CALLED ANY GIRLS BY THEIR FIRST NAME SINCE WAY BACK IN PRIMARY SCHOOL
IT'S LIKE I HAVE THIS MENTAL BLOCK
oh yeah?
HEY, WHAT WAS KURI-SENPAI'S FIRST NAME, ANYWAY?


CUT IT OUT!
YOU SUCK!
take my notebook already!
ALL YOU DID WAS SAY IT AND YOU'RE BEET RED? OH, MOMO-KYUN! SHO INNOSHENT!
look at this cutie pie.


oh? does it? yeah you do love fried chicken. okay yuzuki i'll give you half
that smells goooood! shouta-chan what'd you buy?
you're like her guardian, shizuka-chan...
YOU'RE PUTTING TOO MUCH STOCK IN IT. TAKE SHIZUKA AND SHIMADA, FOR INSTANCE.
yeah, yeah.
HEY, YOU'RE ONTO SOME-THING
MAYBE YOU'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH A "-CHAN"?
call her yuki-chan.
WE USED TO CALL HER "YUU-CHAN" WAY BACK WHEN TOO. DIDN'T WE?
like in the lower grades of primary school
I THINK THEY'RE AN EXCEPTION TO THE RULE
uh...
AND THEY'RE NOT EVEN GOING OUT, MAN.
EH— THERE, THERE.
REALLY?
NOPE! NO WAY! THAT WOULD BE EVEN WORSE!

QUIT SCREWING AROUND AND TAKE THOSE NOTEBOOKS TO THE OFFICE ALREADY!
YEAH, YEAH!
clack clack
BUT I WOULDN'T SAY ANYTHING! I'D JUST WATCH OVER YOU WARMLY!
I'D BE LIKE, "GOOD FOR HIM, SOMETHING MUSTA HAPPENED!"
IF YOU DID START USING KURI-SENPAI'S FIRST NAME...
oh man
YOU'VE MADE IT EVEN HARDER TO SAY.
this sucks
USING OUR...
OUR FIRST NAMES...
I HADN'T EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT UNTIL NOW.
...
BUT RIHITO HAS A GOOD POINT.
...WAS SOOO CUTE!
THAT CAT WE SAW...
AFTER SCHOOL
I'LL DO IT.

KURI-
HARA-
SAN?
?!
Y-YES?!
...
...
K...
S...
SAY,
UH...
CAN
I...
...
CAN I CALL
YOU BY
YOUR...
..FIRST
NAME?
?!
HUH-
AH!

O...

OKAY!

go ahead!

"YUKI."

A-
ANY-WAY!
I-I DON'T THINK I CAN DO IT ALL THE TIME SO SUDDENLY, BUT... C... CAN I... EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?
G-GO RIGHT AHEAD!
BUT, UM... I'M REALLY EMBARRASSED TOO... IT FEELS SO SUDDEN.
HERE COMES THE NOSE-BLEED!
I-I'M SO EMBAR-RASSED!

YEAH...
I TOTALLY GET IT
EHEH HEH!
...THAT SAYING SOMEONE'S NAME COULD BE SO HARD!
WHO KNEW...

BUT YOU KNOW...
THIS MAKES ME REALLY HAPPY!
THANKS, SHINYA-KUN!
OR THAT HEARING YOUR OWN NAME COULD MAKE YOU SO HAPPY?
ACK... I-I CAN'T DO IT!
IT'S JUST TOO EMBARRASSING! LET'S PUT THAT OFF FOR NOW, KURIHARA-SAN.
Y-YEAH! LET'S DO THAT, MOMO-KUN!!

I WONDER...

...IF THAT'S BECAUSE IT'S WITH KURIHARA-SAN?

splash

momokuri

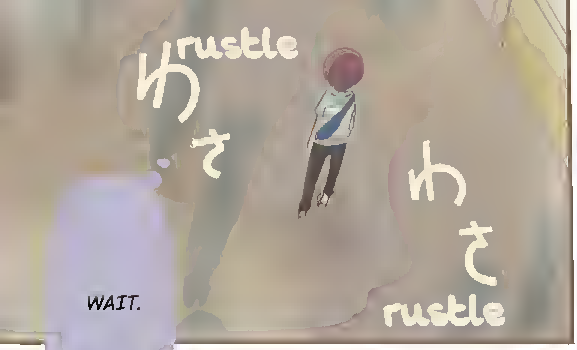
もも くり

くろせ

by kurose

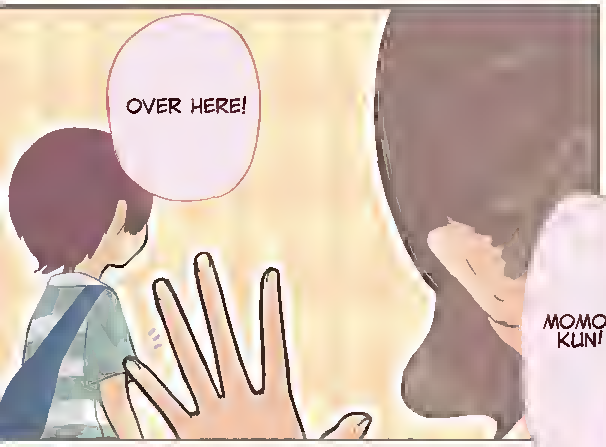
2

kurihara with momotsuki b s gi ries


rustle
わさ
わさ
rustle
WAIT.

WHERE THE HECK AM I?!
bloop

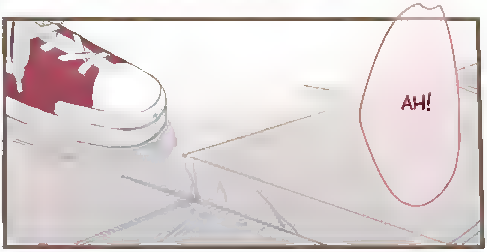
EP22: CAUGHT IN THE CURRENT
SHOOT.
WE GOT SEPARATED...

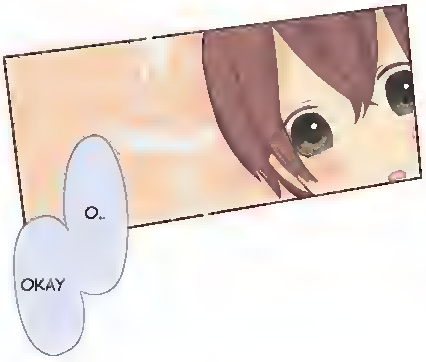

OVER HERE!
MOMO-KUN!

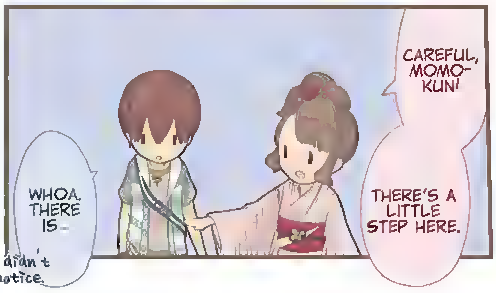
ONE HOUR EARLIER...

S-SORRY, UH, AM I LATE...?
KURI-HARA-SAN!
K-
no. not at all!
IT'S NOT 7:00 YET. I JUST CAME TOO EARLY!
the fireworks aren't until 8:30.
OUR CITY HAS A SUMMER FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR AT THE END OF JULY
IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD TIME TO ASK KURI-HARA-SAN OUT ON A DATE.
O-OH OKAY
U-UH-HUH!
TH-
THANKS!
IT LOOKS GREAT!
Y...
YOUR Y-YU-KATA.

AND EVERY-THING WAS GOING GREAT AT FIRST
ME, I LIKE THE YAKISOBA AND STUFF.
OH, THAT'S SO GOOD!
OH YEAH?
AND HERE WE ARE.
heh heh heh!
I LOOOVE THE CANDY THEY SELL IN THE STALLS!
mmm strawberry!
le gasp
WAIT A SEC. THERE'S A LOTTA GREEN IN THERE.
HEY, IF YOU WANT SOME, TOO, I CAN BUY US SOME.
OKAY!
UH...
OKAY?
SEA-FOOD!
LET'S HAVE THE SEAFOOD YAKISOBA!
!
MOMO-KUN!
tug

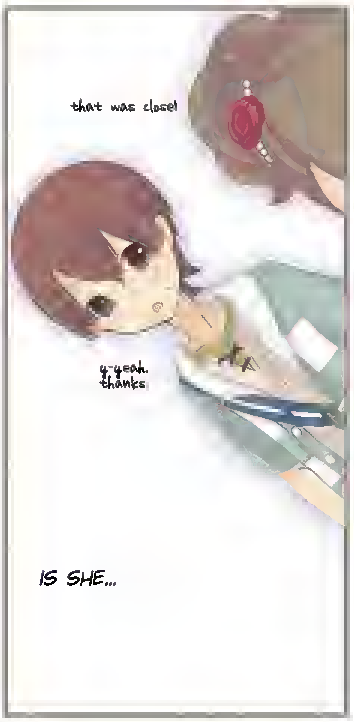






WAIT A SECOND...

...TAKING THE LEAD HERE?!


that was close!
u-yeah. thanks
IS SHE...

MOMO-KUN'S SO UNDEPENDABLE AND CHILDISH.
IF THIS GOES ON...
HE'S MORE OF A LITTLE BROTHER THAN A BOYFRIEND.
SHE MIGHT END UP THINKING I'M NOT MAN ENOUGH!
oh! here come the shrine carriers!

I CAN'T...
...LET HER THINK THAT!
KURI-HARA-SA...
HUH?!
heave ho
heave ho
?!
heave ho
heave ho
?!!
NEXT THING I KNEW, THE CROWD CARRYING THE SHRINE HAD SWEPT ME AWAY...
I FEEL.. REALLY PATHETIC RIGHT NOW.
and my phone battery's dead

...OR HIT ON BY GUYS, OR-
N-NO...
IT'S OKAY...
OH! I AM SOOO SORRY!
WOOOW! LOOK! ISN'T HE, LIKE, THE CUTEST?!
OH, WOW YOU ARE SO CUTE!
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...
IT'S ALREADY PRETTY DARK, AND KURI-HAR.-SAN, WELL, SHE'S KIND OF AN AIRHEAD...
in the clouds
bump
SHE COULD GET KIDNAPPED...
!
THAT BOY, THE ONE SURROUNDED BY OLDER GIRLS.
HE LOOKS LIKE MOMO-KUN!
HUUH?
WAIT A SEC..
WHAAA?!
I CAN TOTALLY SEE THAT! I JUST LOVE THAT FACE. ARE YOU IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
OHH, I KNOW, IT'S LIKE, IF MIKA'S EX WAS FIVE YEARS YOUNGER.
WAIT, UH..
HUH?
ARE YOU HERE ALONE? WANT TO HANG WITH US?

WHAT'S WITH THESE GIRLS? HELP!
I'M ABOUT TO MEET BACK UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND. SORRY!
I...
actually uh...
I'm in high school?
THAT IS MOMO-KUN!
ARE YOU OKAY?
MOMO-TSUKI!
!

M...

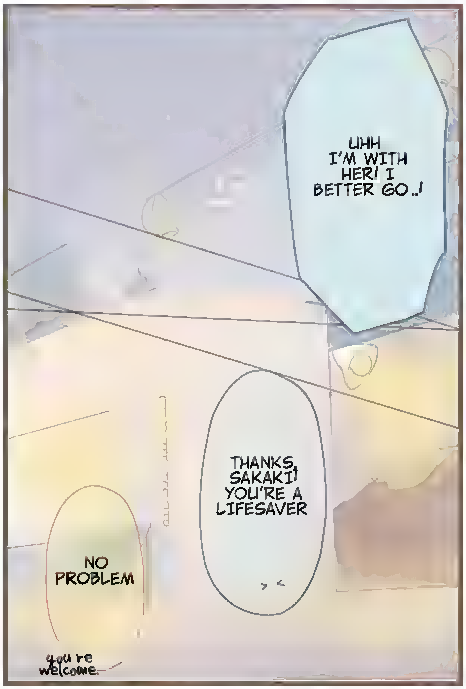
WHAT IF...
KURIHARA'S IMAGINATION
...HE'S IN TROUBLE?

THE NUMBER YOU HAVE DIALED IS NOT AVAILABLE.
MOMO-KUN! I CAN'T GET A HOLD OF HIM!

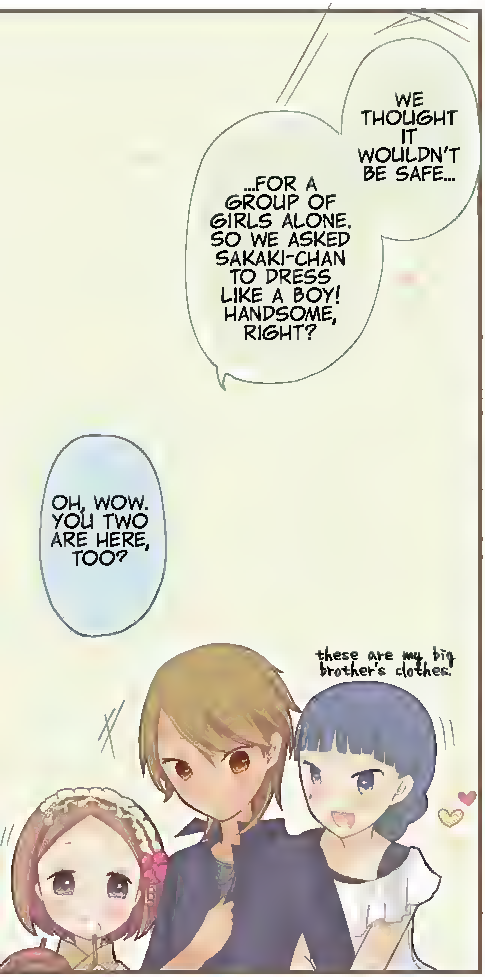
MOMO-KUUUN! WHERE ARE YOUUUU?!
waaah!
EP23: LOST ONE'S FEELINGS

MOMO-TSUKI?
?

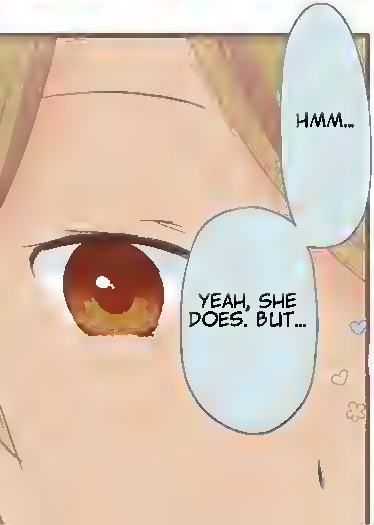
LAST TIME:
MOMO-KUN WAS BEING ACCOSTED BY OLDER GIRLS...
..WHEN A HANDSOME KNIGHT CAME TO THE RESCUE.

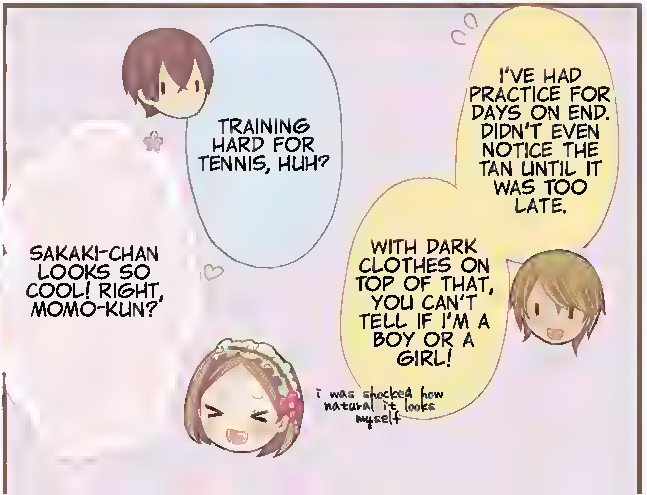

UHH I'M WITH HER! I BETTER GO..!
THANKS SAKAKI! YOU'RE A LIFESAVER
> <
NO PROBLEM
you're welcome.

gasp
SAKAKI?!
sorry! you're so tan i didn't recognize you for a sec!
I- IT'S OKAY
murmur
were these girls bothering you?

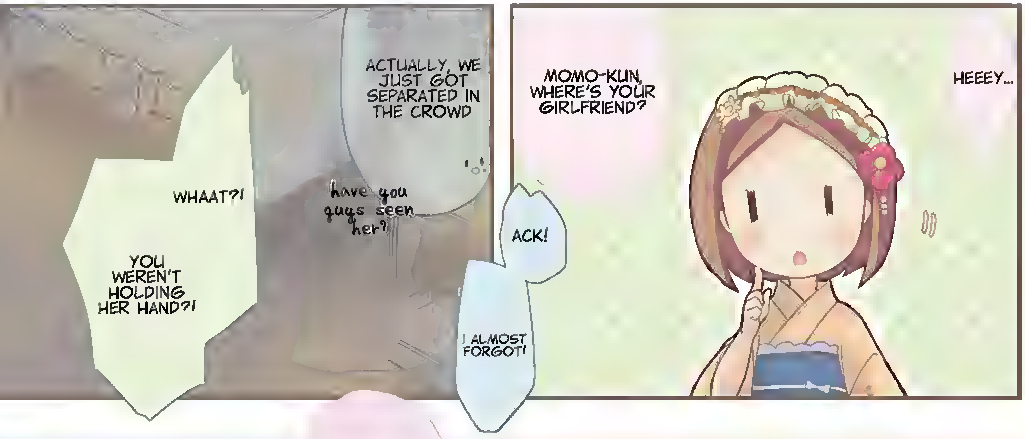

WE THOUGHT IT WOULDN'T BE SAFE...
...FOR A GROUP OF GIRLS ALONE. SO WE ASKED SAKAKI-CHAN TO DRESS LIKE A BOY! HANDSOME, RIGHT?
OH, WOW. YOU TWO ARE HERE, TOO?
these are my big brother's clothes.

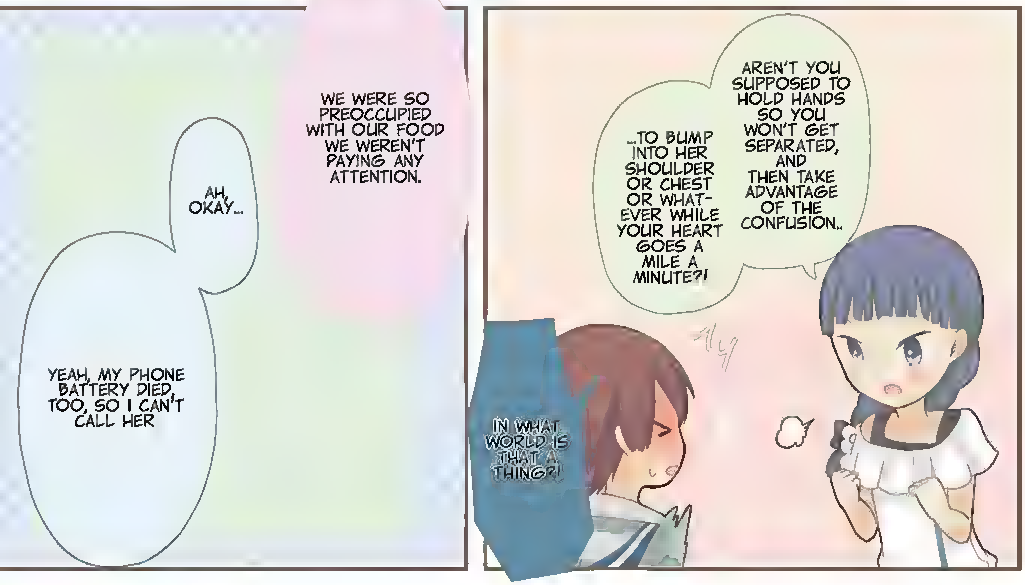
...
ANY-WAY...
...YOUR OUT-FIT?
WHAT'S UP WITH...
ACK! THIS IS, UH...

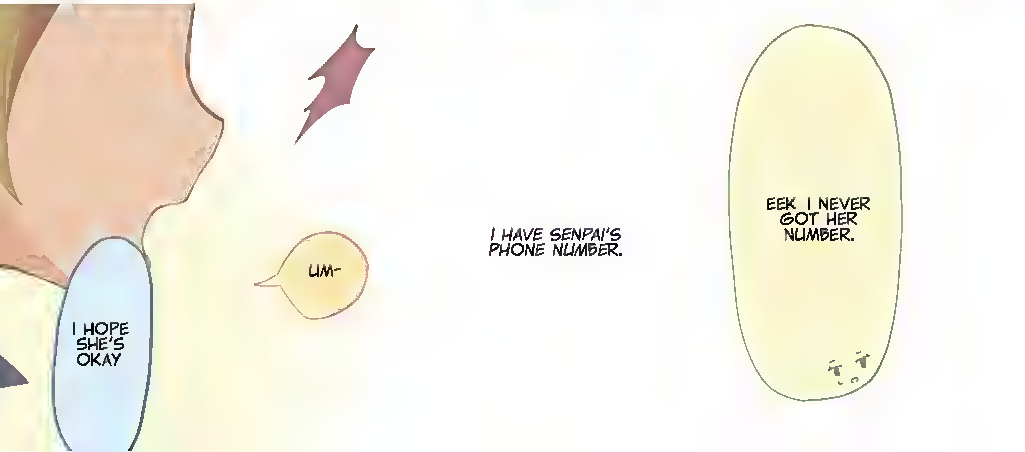

HMM...
YEAH, SHE DOES. BUT...


TRAINING HARD FOR TENNIS, HUH?
I'VE HAD PRACTICE FOR DAYS ON END. DIDN'T EVEN NOTICE THE TAN UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE.
SAKAKI-CHAN LOOKS SO COOL! RIGHT, MOMO-KUN?
WITH DARK CLOTHES ON TOP OF THAT, YOU CAN'T TELL IF I'M A BOY OR A GIRL!
I was shocked how natural it looks myself

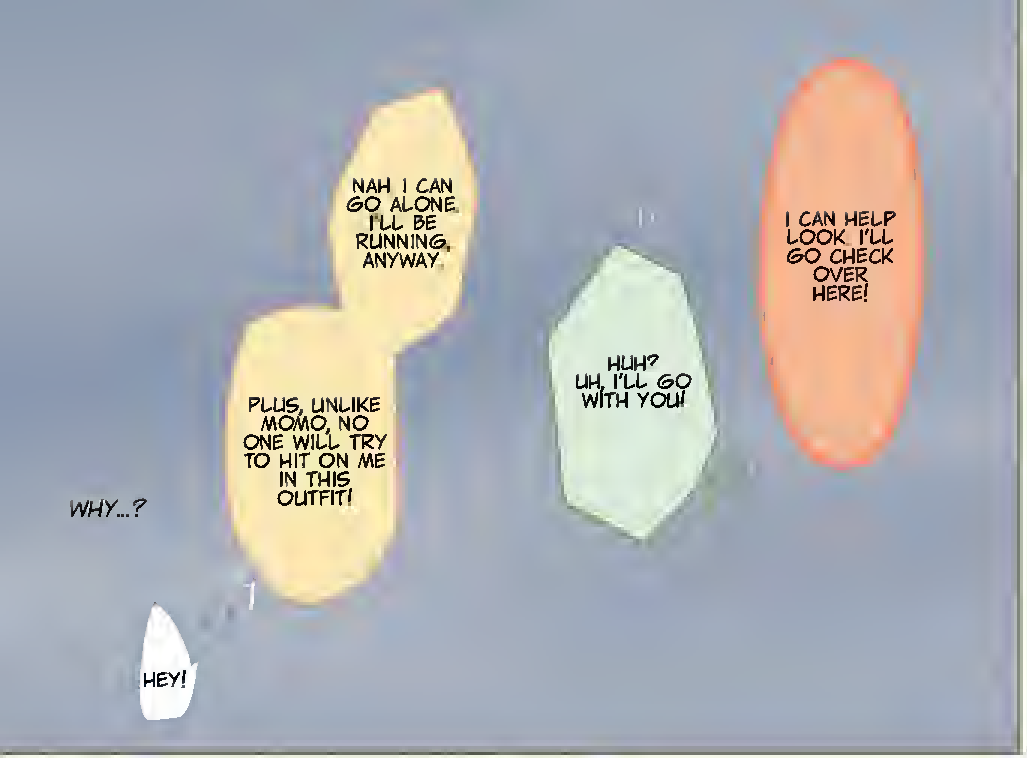
EVEN THOUGH I'M DRESSED LIKE THIS...
...MOMOTSUKI'S STILL TREATING ME LIKE A GIRL...
YOU KNOW, I THINK SAKAKI WOULD LOOK GOOD IN A YUKATA, TOO.
AS A GIRL AND ALL...
er. she's so cool, that i'm gettin' nervous.
Y-YEAH... I DID WANT TO SEE SAKAKI-CHAN IN A YUKATA, TOO!
YUU-CHAN LIKES BOTH!
SAKAKI-CHAN'S PRETTY. SHE LOOKS GOOD IN ANY-THING!


ACTUALLY, WE JUST GOT SEPARATED IN THE CROWD
WHAAT?!
have you guys seen her?
YOU WEREN'T HOLDING HER HAND?!
ACK!
I ALMOST FORGOT!
MOMO-KUN, WHERE'S YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
HEEEY...


WE WERE SO PREOCCUPIED WITH OUR FOOD WE WEREN'T PAYING ANY ATTENTION.
AH, OKAY...
YEAH, MY PHONE BATTERY DIED TOO, SO I CAN'T CALL HER
AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO HOLD HANDS SO YOU WON'T GET SEPARATED, AND THEN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION..
...TO BUMP INTO HER SHOULDER OR CHEST OR WHAT-EVER WHILE YOUR HEART GOES A MILE A MINUTE?!
IN WHAT WORLD IS THAT A THING?!

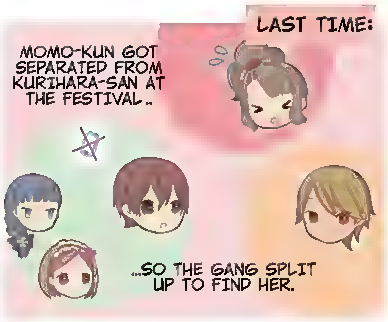

I HOPE SHE'S OKAY
UM-
I HAVE SENPAI'S PHONE NUMBER.
EEK I NEVER GOT HER NUMBER.

KURI-
HARA-
SAN...
throb;
I...
I, UM...

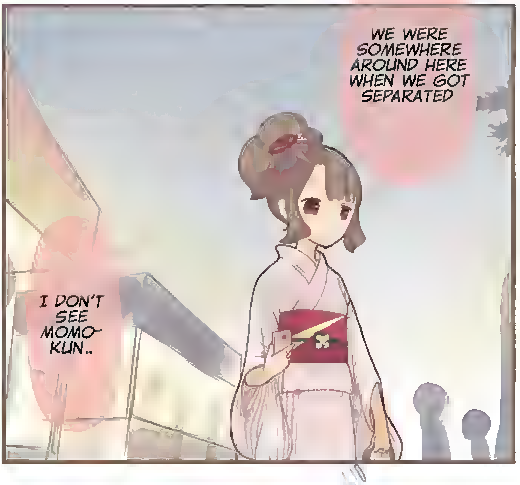

HEY!
WHY...?
PLUS, UNLIKE MOMO, NO ONE WILL TRY TO HIT ON ME IN THIS OUTFIT!
NAH I CAN GO ALONE. I'LL BE RUNNING, ANYWAY.
HUH? UH, I'LL GO WITH YOU!
I CAN HELP LOOK. I'LL GO CHECK OVER HERE!

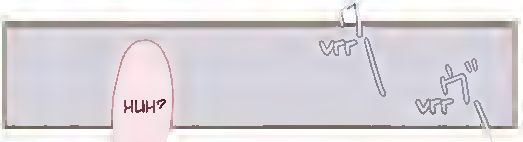
WHY WOULD I TRACK DOWN SENPAI ALONE?
WHY DIDN'T I TELL HIM?
WHAT AM I THINKING?

IT'LL BE FASTER IF WE SPLIT UP!
two keep mmotsuki safe!
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?



EP24: CONFIDENT WORDS

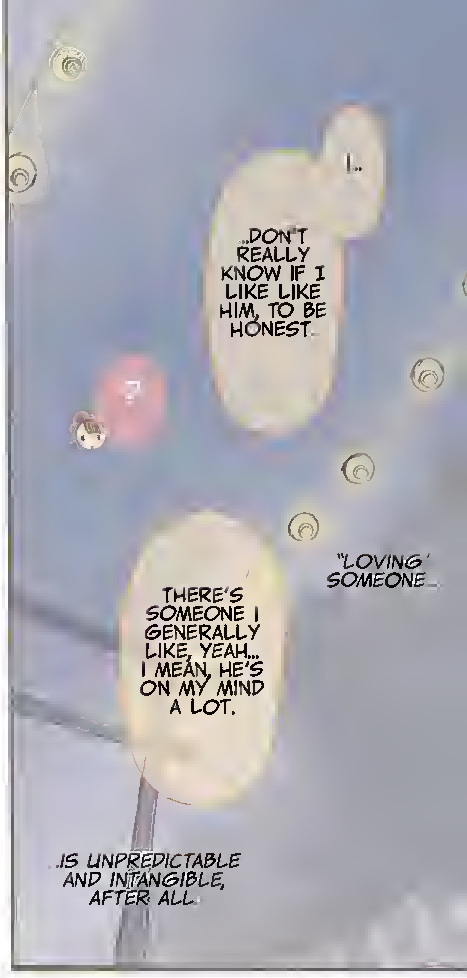


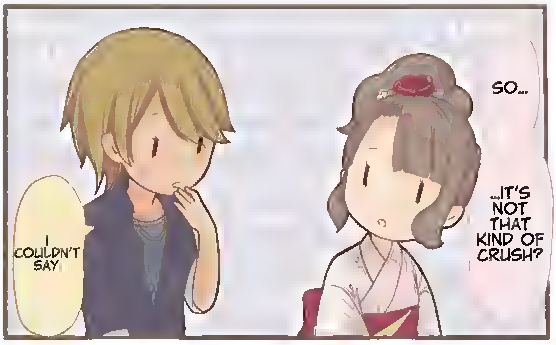


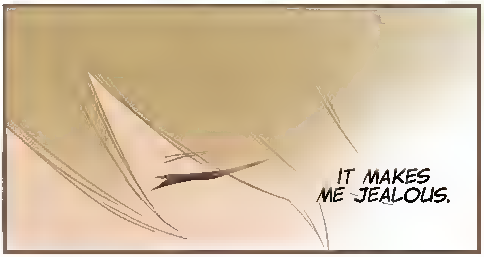
!
RI...
GLAD I FOUND YOU. YOU'RE NOT HURT OR ANY-THING, RIGHT?
waaah
WH-
SHE'S HUGGING ME?!
FINALLY, A FAMILIAR FACE!
thank goodness!
RIO-CHAAAN!
pat
WHY DIDN'T I TELL THEM RIGHT AWAY? WHAT DID I EVEN WANT TO SAY TO SENPAI?
THIS WAS A BAD THING TO DO...
UH...
ERM...
MOMO-TSUKI'S SMART PHONE DIED.
HE'S WITH MY FRIENDS. I JUST CALLED THEM.
THEY SHOULD BE HERE IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES.

O-OH YEAH...
THERE'S A GOOD EXPLANATION FOR THIS.
OHH, OKAY!
SO YOU CAME TO THE FESTIVAL AS A GROUP OF GIRLS!
erk
...
RIO-CHAN?
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
ARE YOU WEARING?!
and you fall in with a bad crowd?!
RIO-CHAN, THERE'S A BOY YOU'RE CRUSHING ON, RIGHT?
BUT...
IT'S SUMMER BREAK! IT'S A WASTE IF YOU DON'T DRESS UP CUTE!
you might run into him!
...
a guy I like..?
I HEARD THAT PEOPLE AT SCHOOL SAY YOU'RE LIKE A PRINCE
I CAN SEE WHY. YOU LOOK REALLY GOOD IN THAT.
AHA HA...
usami's big brother is overprotective. so...

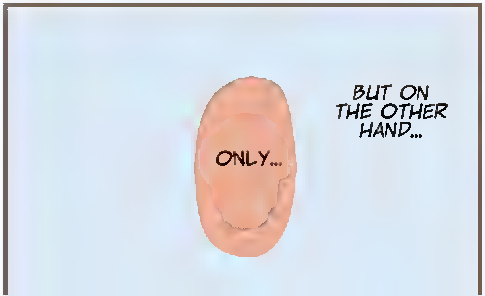
I'M NOT SURE WHAT MY FEELINGS FOR HIM ARE
AND SOMETIMES, YOU FALL OUT OF LOVE ALL AT ONCE.


I...
...DON'T REALLY KNOW IF I LIKE LIKE HIM, TO BE HONEST.
"LOVING" SOMEONE...
THERE'S SOMEONE I GENERALLY LIKE, YEAH... I MEAN, HE'S ON MY MIND A LOT.
IS UNPREDICTABLE AND INTANGIBLE, AFTER ALL.


I COULDN'T SAY
SO...
...IT'S NOT THAT KIND OF CRUSH?


IT MAKES ME JEALOUS.

I DO KNOW ONE THING, THOUGH...
THE WAY YOU CAN SAY FOR SURE THAT YOU LIKE HIM, SENPAI...


ONLY...
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

I DON'T WANT TO ACCEPT YOUR RELATIONSHIP.
I WANT HIM TO MEET SOMEONE WHO'S BETTER AT COOKING AND STUDYING AND SPORTS THAN ME.
AND I WANT HIM TO BE HAPPY.
WOW!
?!
THAT'S REALLY INCREDIBLE, ACTUALLY!
YOU'RE SO DEVOTED!
THAT'S MORE THAN A CRUSH!
IT'S GENUINE LOVE!
RIO-CHAN, YOU HAVE A BEAUTIFUL HEART! AND YOU'RE SO FEMININE!
L-LOVE?!
UH-HUH!
BEAUTIFUL
FEMININE
?!

I, UH... WHEN IT COMES TO GIRL TALK, I'M ALWAYS THE LISTENER.
I'VE NEVER TALKED TO ANYONE ABOUT THIS BEFORE.
BUT THE WAY SHE SAYS THINGS SO EARNESTLY

S...
SENPAI...!
HOW CAN YOU SAY STUFF LIKE THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE?
?
?

?!
HEE HEE!
YOU ARE SO CUTE!
KURI-HARA-SAN!
...ISN'T AS CRAZY AS I THOUGHT.
MAYBE SENPAI...

IT'S A LITTLE BIT...
I'M KIND OF EMBAR-RASSED. CAN THIS BE OUR LITTLE SECRET?
...LIKE MOMOTSUKI.
!

I'M GLAD YOU'RE SA-
OH!
MOMO-KUN!
TRIP
!!!
MOMO-TSUKI!
MOMO-KUN!

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME!

...
TH...

THANK. YOU. VERY. MUCH.

...

I FEEL SO LAME RIGHT NOW!
when did they get so friendly?!
HUH?
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE MOMO-TSUKI RUNNING TO THE RESCUE!
MOMO-KUN'S SO ADORABLE
DING
IS THAT FROM SAKAKI-CHAN?
USAMIN? ARE YOU TEXTING YOUR BROTHER?
I'LL TEXT THEM TO GET THEIR BUTTS BACK HERE SO WE CAN ALL EAT TAKOYAKI
UH-HUH! IT SAYS THEY MET UP~!
YUP...
NOW THAT'S LOVE!
YEAH... EVERY HOUR..
nom
nom

...THAT KURI-HARA-SAN
DOESN'T REALLY THINK OF ME AS A GUY.
EP.25: SUMMER HOMEWORK
I GET THIS FEELING.
...
YOU'RE JUST FIGURING THAT OUT NOW?
HUUUH?!

...
Y...
YOU THINK SO?
WELL...
KURI-SENPAI IS HEAD OVER HELLS FOR YOU NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, RIGHT?
HEAD OVER-
YOU SAID IT...
DIDJA EVER KISS HER?
HAAH?!
WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, MOMO...
NOT YOU TOO, SHIZUKA! DON'T CALL ME A MAIDEN OR WHATEVER!
GOSH, RIHITO... DEEP DOWN, MOMO-CHAN IS A PURE MAIDEN. DON'T PICK ON HIM SO MUCH.
heh
WOOOW.
you did, didja?
heh
N-NO! SO WHAT?!
I CALLED HER BY HER FIRST NAME A BIT!

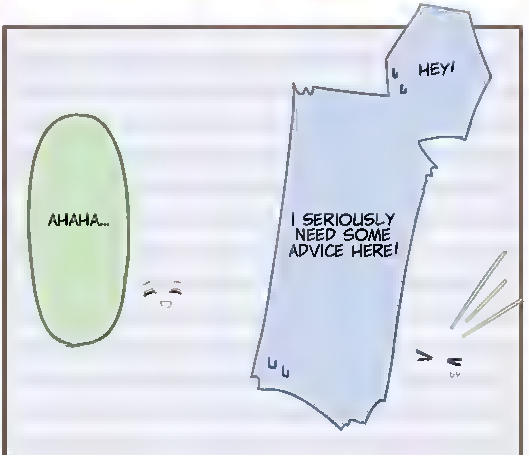
BUT MOMO-CHAN...
...DIDN'T YOU TURN ALL RED WHEN KURI-SENPAI CALLED YOU THAT?
I thought you liked it.
N-NO!
I BLUSHED BECAUSE...
BUT THE REASON KURI-SENPAI LIKES YOU...
sorry, sorry.
...IS BECAUSE YOU'RE CUTE, RIGHT?
OH YEAH...
I THINK I REMEMBER HER SAYING THAT.
I'M A GUY, DARN IT! CALLING ME CUTE LIKE THAT IS NOT A COMPLIMENT!
slam
WHEN SHE SAID THAT, HER EYES...

...AND SO PRETTY.
...WERE SO CLEAR...
?
Y'KNOW, IT'S NOT JUST YOUR LOOKS TAKE FOR INSTANCE..
..YOUR DRINK.
*a milkshake
...
UH-OH. YOU THINKIN' 'BOUT SOMETHIN' DIRTY?
SHUT UP.
!!
ALSO, YOU'RE TOO PASSIVE.
GETTING SO EMBARRASSED ISN'T VERY MANLY, NOW IS IT?
YOU'RE SO SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT YOUR HEIGHT THAT YOU ALWAYS ORDER MILK DRINKS.
IT COULD BE HARD FOR HER TO BE AWARE OF YOU AS A GUY IF IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'D NEVER TRY ANYTHING.
BOOMERANG.

MAYBE!
...KISSED HER,
MAYBE SHE'D THINK OF ME AS A GUY.
IF I...
...K.

slump
ARGH. I CAN'T CONCEN-TRATE ON THIS HOME-WORK.
AND NOW I HAVE A HEADACHE.. I FEEL A FEVER COMING ON.
COME ON, MOMO.
YOU'RE BEIN' A BABY.
MOMO-CHAN, THAT'S BAD MANNERS SIT UP.

YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY!


HEY!
I SERIOUSLY NEED SOME ADVICE HERE!
AHAHA...

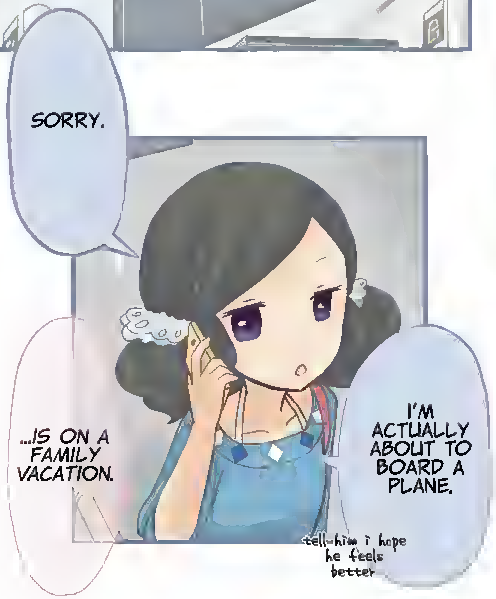
UH...
...
MOMO?
?
I'M OKAY.
I...
むくり rise
IS EMA-KUN AROUND TODAY?
OH NO!
can he drive down here?
DUDE. I THINK HE ACTUALLY HAS A FEVER.
he didn't react.
NO, HE'S WORKING AT OUR CLINIC OVER SUMMER BREAK, AND IT'S OPEN UNTIL EVENING.
it's only 1:00 pm.

I WAS FINE ALL MORNING.
I CAN SLEEP IT OFF-
?
?
WHAT...
DID YOU JUST DO?
help!
IF YOU SAY YOU'RE OKAY, THEN TODAY YOU SHOULD GO HOME AND GET YOURSELF IN BED.
JUST GET YOURSELF LOOKED AT TOMORROW.
i'll set it up.
O...
OKAY?
THAT SAID...
YUKI, I NEED TO SEE YOU ASAP.
?!!
MY BODY'S SO HOT...
...IN THE MEANTIME...
I'M PRESCRIBING YOU SOME MEDICINE!

whoa!
WHAT THE HECK?! THAT'S SO SUGGESTIVE!
why'd you send that?!
WELL, NONE OF IT'S A LIE...
FEEL BETTER SOON!
I'M SO NERVOUS!
I-IT'S...
...MY FIRST TIME VISITING HIS HOUSE ALONE.

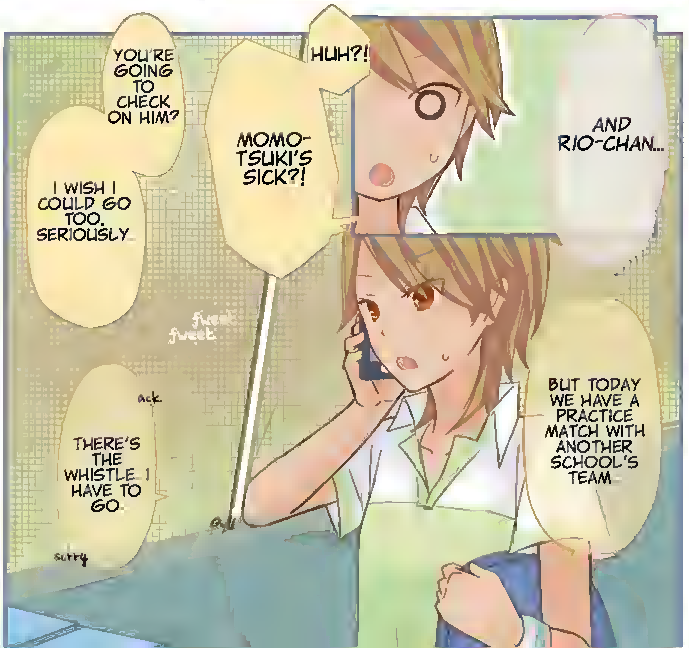
MOMO-KUN HAS A FEVER, SO I WENT TO HIS HOUSE TO CHECK ON HIM.
EP26: DIZZYINGLY

BUT NORIKA...


SORRY.
...IS ON A FAMILY VACATION.
I'M ACTUALLY ABOUT TO BOARD A PLANE.
tell him i hope he feels better

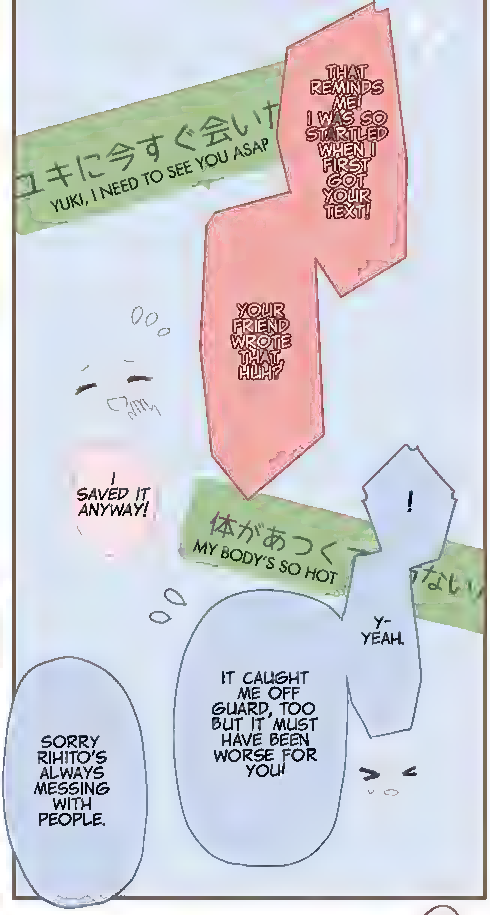
TO BE HONEST,
I WAS NERVOUS ABOUT COMING ON MY OWN.

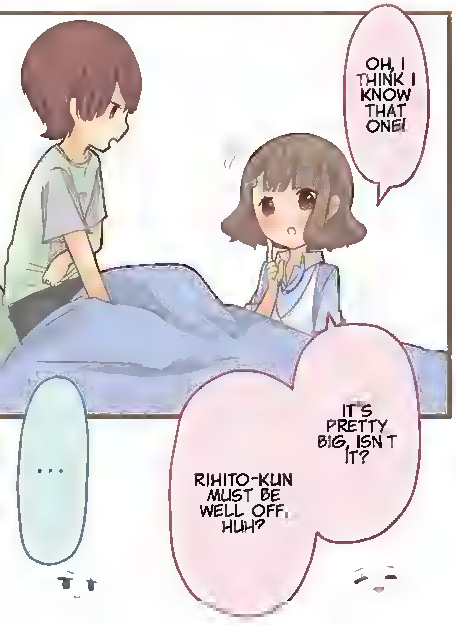
THAT'S MY LIFE.
はぁ...
NOTHING BUT BAD TIMING.
SEEMED BUSY WITH TENNIS PRACTICE.

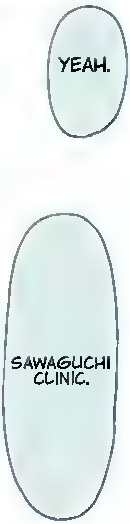

HUH?!
MOMO-TSUKI'S SICK?!
YOU'RE GOING TO CHECK ON HIM?
I WISH I COULD GO TOO. SERIOUSLY.
AND RIO-CHAN...
BUT TODAY WE HAVE A PRACTICE MATCH WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL'S TEAM.
THERE'S THE WHISTLE. I HAVE TO GO.

MOMO-KUN, YOU HAVEN'T TAKEN YOUR TEMPERA-TURE YET?!
ACTUALLY, I JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE A THERMO-METER WITH ME!
PLEASE USE IT!
AND THEN I CAN TAKE IT HOME AND TREASURE IT FOREVER!
BUT...
SENPAI WAS TALKING LIKE A NORMAL PERSON THE OTHER DAY.
SO... I THINK IT SHOULD BE OKAY?
WHAT?
TH...
THANKS.
i'll do that.
ACTUALLY, OURS IS JUST STORED UP TOO HIGH FOR ME TO REACH.
and...i'm kinda dizzy...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO SOUND LAME, SO I'LL KEEP THAT TO MYSELF.
baduuuuuuu
TH...

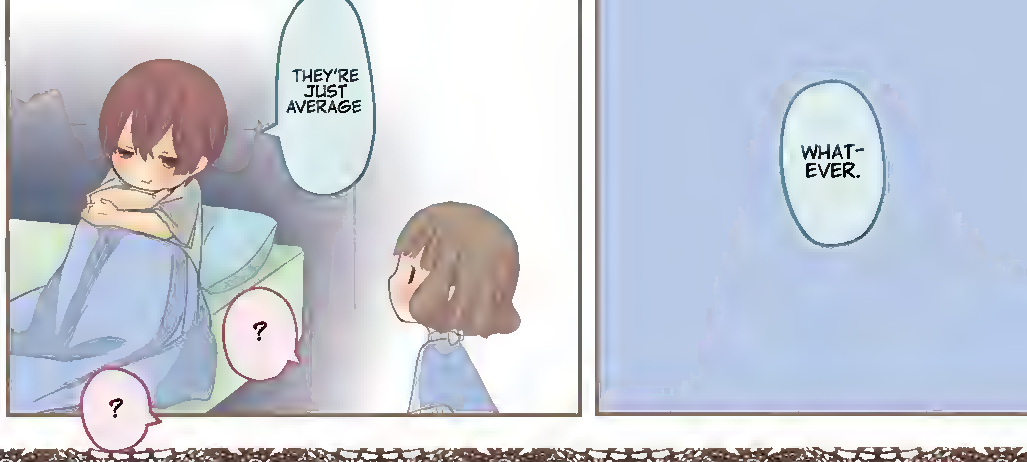
I REPLAYED IT IN MY BRAIN AS SOMETHING YOU SAID.
OH, NO!
IT'S TOTALLY ON!!
?
I'D CREEP HIM OUT IF I SAID THAT..
D...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY.


ユキに今すぐ会いた
YUKI, I NEED TO SEE YOU ASAP
THAT REMINDS ME! I WAS SO STARTLED WHEN I FIRST GOT YOUR TEXT!
YOUR FRIEND WROTE THAT, HUH?
I SAVED IT ANYWAY!
体があつく
MY BODY'S SO HOT
!
Y-YEAH.
IT CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD, TOO BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN WORSE FOR YOU!
SORRY RIHITO'S ALWAYS MESSING WITH PEOPLE.


OH, I THINK I KNOW THAT ONE!
...
RIHITO-KUN MUST BE WELL OFF, HUH?
IT'S PRETTY BIG, ISN'T IT?


YEAH.
SAWAGUCHI CLINIC.

SPEAKING OF RIHITO-KUN..
HIS FAMILY RUNS A CLINIC, RIGHT?
...


THEY'RE JUST AVERAGE
?
?
WHAT-EVER.

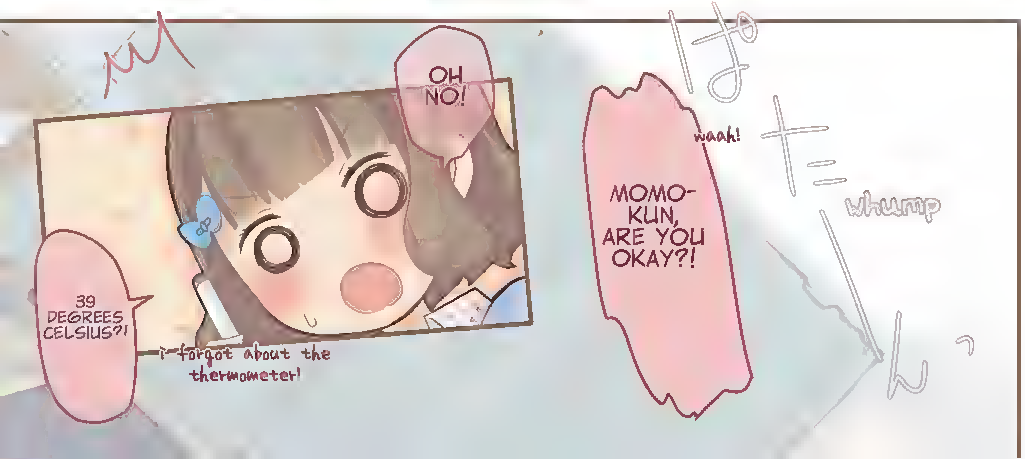
...
M...
MOMO-KUN?
in a bad mood?

DID HE GET SNAPPY...
...BECAUSE HE'S...
OH...
OHHH...

ARE YOU... JEALOUS?
I...
I KNEW IT...!
SH..
SHINYA... KUN?
...
hee
...CALLING ME "CUTE" LIKE I'M A KID.
THERE SHE GOES AGAIN...
...NH.
I...
IF I K-KISSED HER, MAYBE SHE'D THINK OF ME AS A GUY...
OH, MOMO-KUN
EHEH HEH..
THAT'S SO CUTE.
I LOVE YOU!

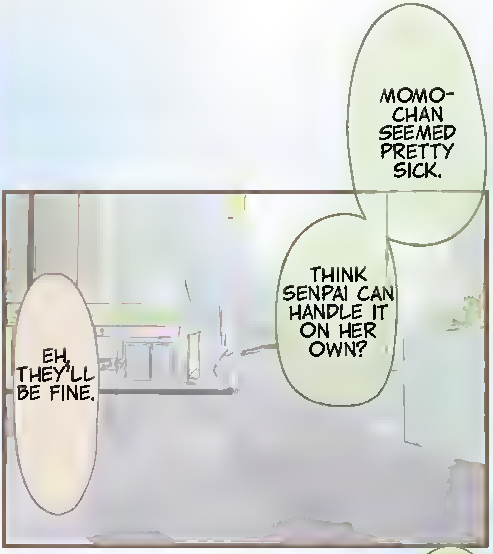
"MAYBE!"
YU...
...KI.
"YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY!"
NOT AS "CUTE"...
...BUT AS A REAL BOYFRIEND.
YOU'RE...
..WAY..
...CUTER.
eh?
SH...
OHMI-GOD!

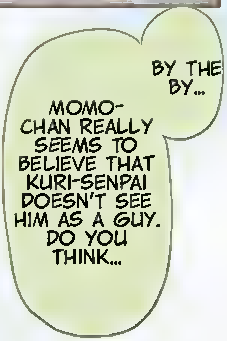
th-thump
...!
th-thump
OF THE OP
PO
SITE
SE
X.
URGH.
?!
OMIGOD!
SHINYA... KU...
I WANT HER TO REALLY SEE ME...
th-thump
..AS A MEMBER..


OH NO!
39 DEGREES CELSIUS?!
I forgot about the thermometer!
waah!
MOMO-KUN, ARE YOU OKAY?!
whump

...
I-I'LL GO GET YOU SOME ICE AND SOME-THING TO DRINK!
stomp
TH...
THANKS.
stomp
S...
I STILL...
SORRY, KURI-HARA-SAN.
...HAVEN'T MUSTERED UP...
...ENOUGH COURAGE TO DO IT.
I DIDN'T COL-LAPSE FROM THE FEVER.
I FAKED IT.

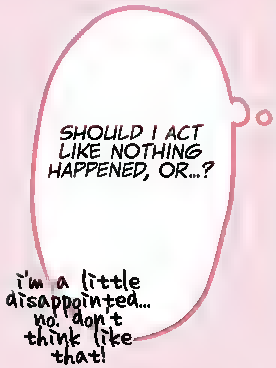
HE'S KIDDING HIMSELF. SHE TOTALLY ACTS DIFFERENT AROUND HIM.
even though she calls him cute.
YUP, I THOUGHT SO.


MOMO-CHAN SEEMED PRETTY SICK.
THINK SENPAI CAN HANDLE IT ON HER OWN?
EH, THEY'LL BE FINE.


BY THE BY...
MOMO-CHAN REALLY SEEMS TO BELIEVE THAT KURI-SENPAI DOESN'T SEE HIM AS A GUY. DO YOU THINK...

BUT IT'S FUNNY... SO I WON'T SET HIM STRAIGHT YET.

OH YEAH, THAT?

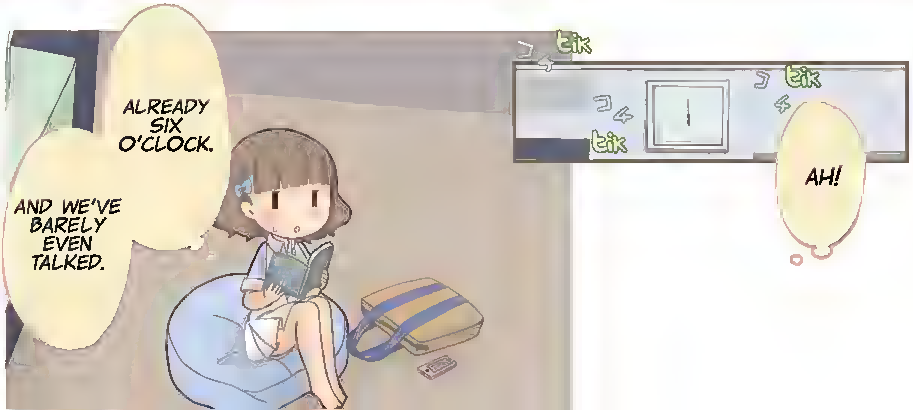

SHOULD I ACT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED, OR...?
I'm a little disappointed... no, I don't think like that!

URGH...

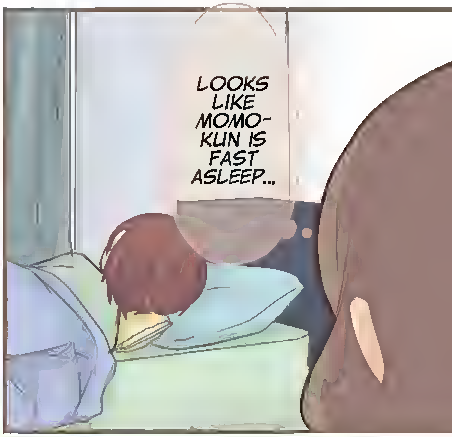
TH...

THIS IS UNCOMFORTABLE.

EP27: THINKING OF YOU



BUT HE'S STILL BREATHING PRETTY ERRATICALLY... IT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.


LOOKS LIKE MOMO-KUN IS FAST ASLEEP...

おず
creep...

...

I'D BETTER NOT.

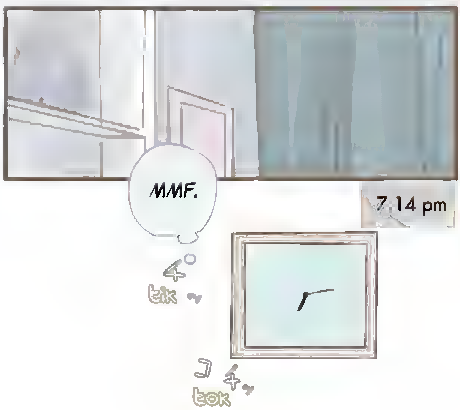
...
NO.
I'm gonna drop it

6:40 pm
けほ
koff
けほ、
koff
こほ、
!
OKAY...
MAYBE IT'S TIME.
"RIHITO SAID TO GIVE THIS TO YOU."
I ALREADY READ IT.
I USED THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS NOTE TO MAKE RICE PORRIDGE FOR HIM!
IT SAYS HOW TO TAKE CARE OF SOMEONE WITH A SUMMER FEVER
MOMO-KUN HAS GREAT FRIENDS
"It could be a virus, so please don't give him any store-bought medicine until he's seen a doctor."
touch
MOMO-KUN..
HE LOOKS WORSE. DID HIS TEMPERATURE GO UP?

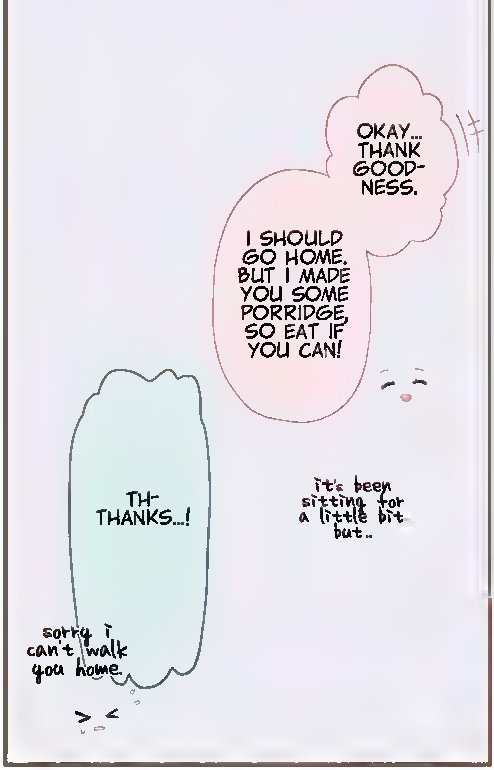
OH, WOW...
HIS FORE-HEAD'S STILL REALLY HO-
MMF.
?!
hff...
FEELS GOOD...
boom
C...

CALM DOWN...
IT FEELS GOOD BECAUSE MY HAND IS COOL.
COLOSSALLY CUTE...!
I almost let all my common sense fly off into space.
HER COMMON SENSE
zzz
HE'S SLEEPING BETTER NOW.
YOU KNOW, I...
I'VE LOOKED AT MY PHOTOS OF MOMO-KUN SO OFTEN THAT I COULD BURN A HOLE THROUGH THEM.
BUT I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER...
...HAD A NICE LONG STARE AT MOMO-KUN IN PERSON.
A-AND TODAY TAUGHT ME THAT HE STILL HAS LOTS AND LOTS...
...OF EXPRESSIONS I HAVEN'T SEEN.

WHAT COULD HE BE DREAMING ABOUT?

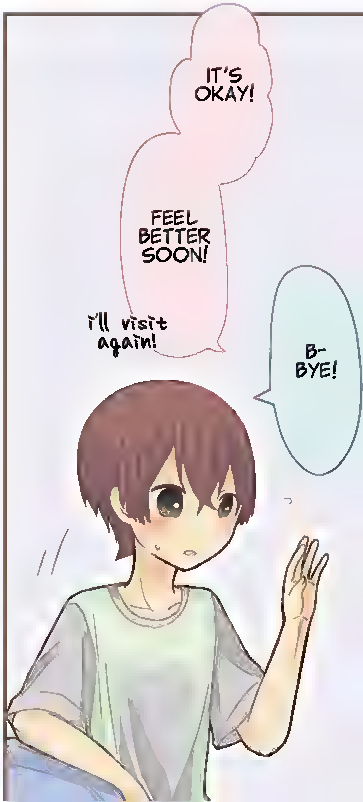


K...
KURI-HARA-SAN?
...
gasp
MNGH...
S-SORRY! AND THANKS!
YOU LOOKED AFTER ME WHILE I SLEPT, HUH?
OH..
GOOD MORNING, MOMO-KUN.
bluuish
omigosh!
OH NO! I CAN'T BELIEVE I DROOLED ON YOUR BED! I'M SO SORRY!!
i'm so embarrassed!
N-NO!
it's no big deal.
HEY, UH, IT'S PAST SEVEN. DO YOU NEED TO GO HOME?
WAH! I WAS ASLEEP FOR THAT LONG?


OKAY... THANK GOOD-NESS.
I SHOULD GO HOME. BUT I MADE YOU SOME PORRIDGE, SO EAT IF YOU CAN!
it's been sitting for a little bit but..
TH-THANKS...!
sorry i can't walk you home.
>_<

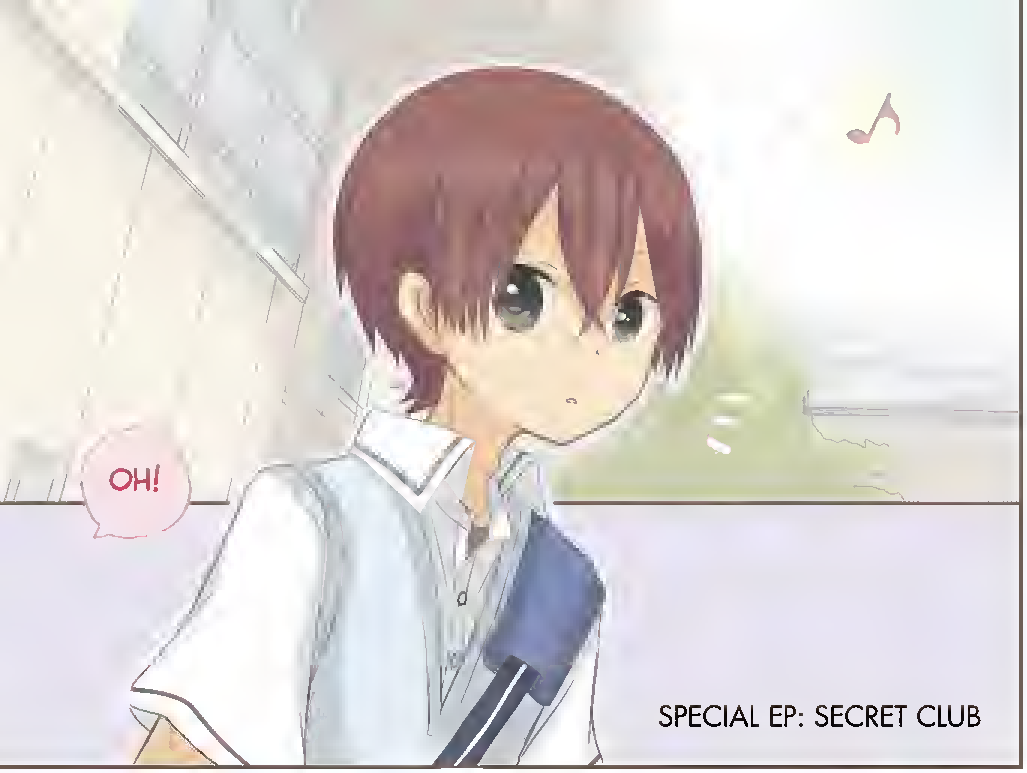
AH...
YOU LOOK A LITTLE BETTER NOW.
OH YEAH? I THINK SLEEPING HELPED A BIT.
tomorrow i'm going to the clinic.

whew


IT'S OKAY!
FEEL BETTER SOON!
i'll visit again!
B-BYE!

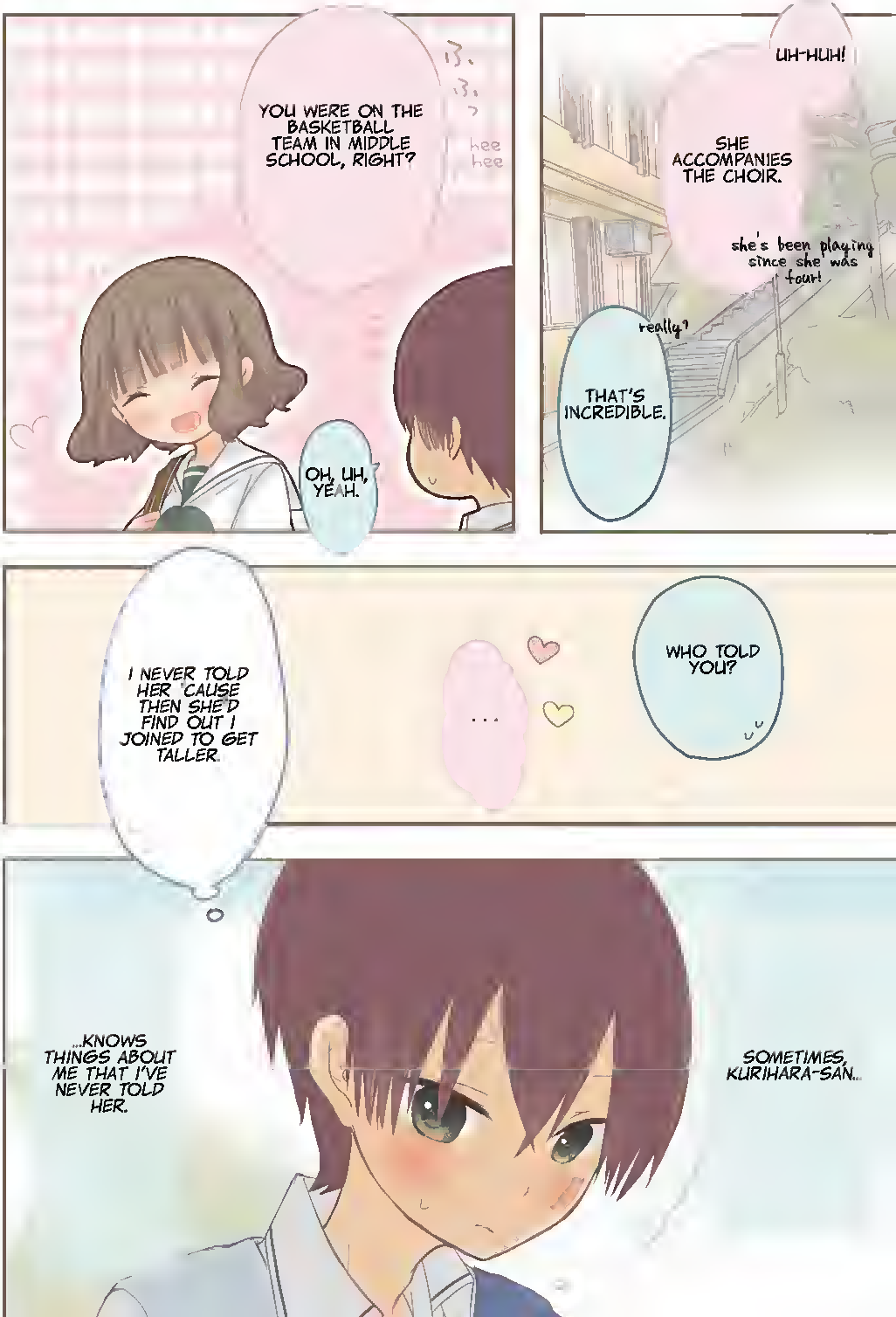
...
IT'S STILL A LITTLE WAR...
S...
SO THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO WAKE UP NEXT TO SOME-ONE.
SER-IOUSLY!
I FEEL LIKE A PERVERT!
GOD!
...MNGAAH!

I WONDER IF, RIGHT NOW...
...HE'S EATING HIS PORRIDGE AND THINKING ABOUT ME?

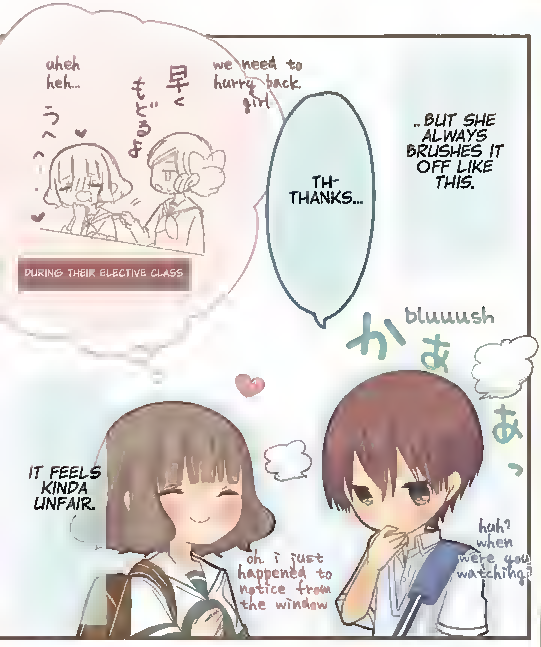

OH!
SPECIAL EP: SECRET CLUB

MIZUYAMA-SENPAI PLAYS PIANO?
she's good...

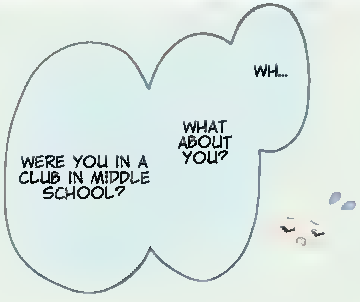
THAT'S NORIKA!


YOU WERE ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM IN MIDDLE SCHOOL, RIGHT?
hee hee
OH, UH, YEAH.
UH-HUH!
SHE ACCOMPANIES THE CHOIR.
she's been playing since she was four!
really?
THAT'S INCREDIBLE.
WHO TOLD YOU?
...
I NEVER TOLD HER 'CAUSE THEN SHE'D FIND OUT I JOINED TO GET TALLER.
...KNOWS THINGS ABOUT ME THAT I'VE NEVER TOLD HER.
SOMETIMES, KURIHARA-SAN...

IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE NEVER THOUGHT TO ASK HER ABOUT THAT...
I WISH I COULD HAVE SEEN YOU PLAY...


aheh heh...
we need to hurry back, girl
TH-THANKS...
..BUT SHE ALWAYS BRUSHES IT OFF LIKE THIS.
DURING THEIR ELECTIVE CLASS
bluuush
IT FEELS KINDA UNFAIR.
oh, i just happened to notice from the window
huh? when were you watching?

YOU LOOKED TOTALLY COOL WHEN YOU SCORED THAT GOAL IN THE SOCCER GAME DURING GYM THE OTHER DAY!
YOU'RE GOOD AT SPORTS, RIGHT?
H-HUH?!
me? cool?


WH...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
WERE YOU IN A CLUB IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?

WHOA, THE SAXOPHONE? THAT'S THE BIG, SHINY GOLDEN ONE, RIGHT?
H-HUH!
WOW!
...OOL.
THAT'S... C...
KINDA COOLER THAN MINE...
AH! NOT AT ALL! IT WAS BECAUSE I'M AWFUL AT SPORTS!
gloom
woh!
Halobeam

...
SO ACTUALLY, I WASN'T GOOD AT IT AT ALL! I DOUBT I'D BE ABLE TO PLAY AT ALL IF I PICKED ONE UP RIGHT NOW.
AND EXTRA-CURRICULARS WERE MANDATORY,
SO I ONLY JOINED BECAUSE IT WASN'T AN ATHLETIC CLUB!
WHY DIDN'T YOU KEEP PLAYING IN HIGH SCHOOL?
I COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH ALL THE WORKING OUT. SIT-UPS, PUSH-UPS, BACK EXERCISES..
Huh?
W-WE'RE STILL TALKING ABOUT A WIND INSTRUMENTS CLUB, RIGHT?

BUT I'M FOCUSED ON SOMETHING OTHER THAN EXTRA-CURRICULARS RIGHT NOW.
I'D RATHER BE IN THE MOMO-KUN CLUB!
D-DO YOU THINK SO?
YOU KNOW... THAT'S KIND OF TOO BAD...
BUT...
COME AGAIN?
?
whap
whap
whap
oh? nothing!
??
J-JUST KIDDING!

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE NO IDEA WHEN KURIHARA-SAN LEARNS ALL OF THESE THINGS...
BECAUSE I'M IN THE MOMO-KUN CLUB!
UH!
WHY DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
YOU WERE ON THE BOYS' TENNIS TEAM FOR ALMOST A MONTH INTO THE SCHOOL YEAR. WHY DID YOU QUIT?
WH-WHAT ABOUT YOU, MOMO-KUN?
WHEN I WON'T COME CLEAN ABOUT THINGS THAT EMBAR-RASS ME.
...MAYBE I'M THE ONE WHO'S BEING UNFAIR
...THERE WAS THIS SENPAI WHO WASN'T ANY TALLER THAN ME, SO I GOT OUTTA THERE.
I HEARD THAT PLAYING TENNIS MAKES YOUR ARMS LONGER, SO I THOUGHT IT MIGHT HELP ME GROW TALL, TOO!
BUT AFTER I JOINED...
so i can't tell her that...

TO THOSE WHO KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE WEBCOMIC ON COMICO, THOSE WHO ARE PICKING UP FROM WHERE VOLUME ONE LEFT OFF, AND ANY NEW READERS:
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP THIS BOOK.

BY THE TIME THIS VOLUME COMES OUT, THE MOMOKURI ANIME SHOULD BE OUT THERE. THE TEAM HAS MADE AN INCREDIBLY ADORABLE ANIME, AND I HOPE A LOT OF PEOPLE WILL WATCH IT.

I DROPPED IN ON THE ANIME PRODUCTION SEVERAL TIMES, AND IT WAS A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE IN A NUMBER OF WAYS.

MOMO AND YUKI GROW UP LITTLE BY LITTLE, AND I HOPE TO GROW WITH THEM AS I GAIN MORE EXPERIENCE, TOO.

I STILL HAVE A LOT TO IMPROVE UPON, BUT I HOPE YOU'LL WATCH OVER ME WARMLY.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR READING THIS FAR.

ももくり②

TO KITA-SAN, MIYAMOTO-SAN, AND EVERYONE ON THE PAPERBACK PUBLISHING TEAM.

〒105-6322 東京都港区虎ノ門1-23-1 虎ノ門ヒルズ森タワー22階
NHN comico 株式会社「comico編集部 ファンレター係 くろせ宛」